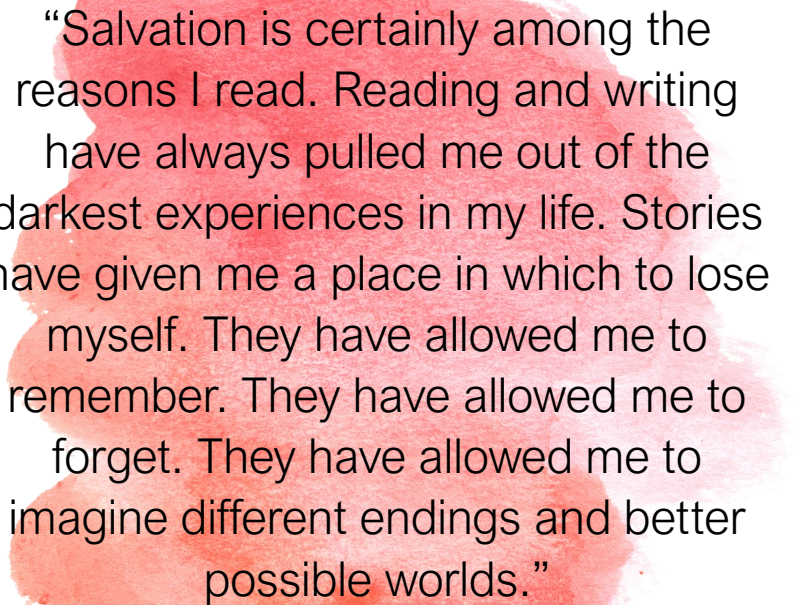




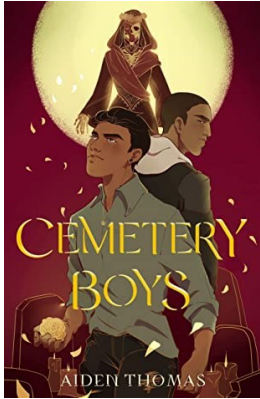
# summer reads

Lakeside Upper School  
2021



“Salvation is certainly among the reasons I read. Reading and writing have always pulled me out of the darkest experiences in my life. Stories have given me a place in which to lose myself. They have allowed me to remember. They have allowed me to forget. They have allowed me to imagine different endings and better possible worlds.”

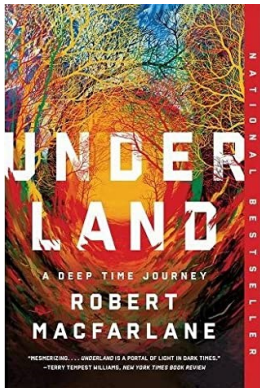
– Roxane Gay



*Cemetery Boys*  
by Aidan Thomas

"Yadriel is a trans boy determined to show his family he's a real brujo, but when he summons the ghost of his former classmate Julian (*not* the ghost he intended to call!), he finds himself in the middle of a high-stakes mystery that threatens to unravel the peace of the living *and* the dead. From the East L.A. setting humming with delicious details to the tender - and sometimes painful - portrayal of Yadriel's loving family's well-intentioned struggle to recognize his true gender, I loved how much this book packed in. Magic, humor, friendship, food (the descriptions are mouthwatering, have a snack handy!), community, and the snarkiest ghost-who-can't-be-left-alone-but-that's-okay-because-there's-something-about-him, all combined to make a heartwarming story brimming with angst, adventure, romance, and no small measure of joy." -C.P.

Recommended by Carly P.

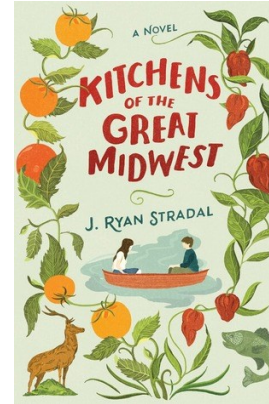


*Underland*  
by Robert Macfarlane

In *Underland*, Macfarlane delivers an exploration of the Earth's underworlds as they exist in myth, literature, memory, and the land itself. Traveling through the dizzying expanse of geologic time, *Underland* takes us on an extraordinary journey into our relationship with darkness, burial, and what lies beneath the surface of both place and mind.

"Macfarlane is one of the best nature writers working today, and this is an eloquent and tightly written exploration of worlds underground, including caves, caverns, catacombs, and mines. A brilliant investigation--geological, historical, cultural, social--of different realms below the surface." -E.C.

Recommended by Erik C.



*Kitchens of the Great Midwest*  
by J. Ryan Stradal

"My favorite read of the year! When Lars Thorvald's wife, Cynthia, falls in love with wine--and a dashing sommelier--he's left to raise their baby, Eva, on his own. He's determined to pass on his love of food to his daughter--starting with puréed pork shoulder. As Eva grows, she finds her solace and salvation in the flavors of Minnesota. From Scandinavian lutefisk to hydroponic chocolate habaneros, each ingredient represents one part of Eva's journey as she becomes the star chef behind a legendary and secretive pop-up supper club, culminating in an opulent and emotional feast that's a testament to her spirit and resilience." -D.H.

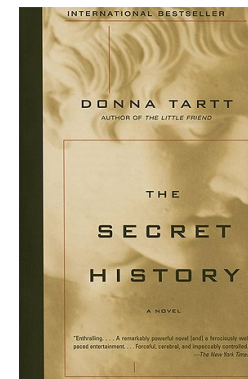
Recommended by Debby H.



*11 Paper Hearts*  
by Kelsey Hartwell

"*11 Paper Hearts* is a perfect choice for anyone looking for a fun-to-read romance novel incorporated with a bit of mystery. In the story, the main character Ella follows a trail of paper hearts to uncover 11 weeks of her life that she forgot due to a car accident." -A.W.

Recommended by Amanda W. '24

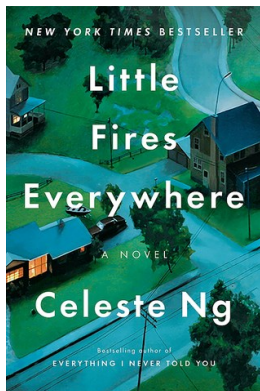


*The Secret History*  
by Donna Tartt

Under the influence of their charismatic classics professor, a group of clever, eccentric misfits at an elite New England college discover a way of thinking and living that is a world away from the humdrum existence of their contemporaries. But when they go beyond the boundaries of normal morality they slip gradually from obsession to corruption and betrayal, and at last - inexorably - into evil.

Recommended by Tiffany Z. '21

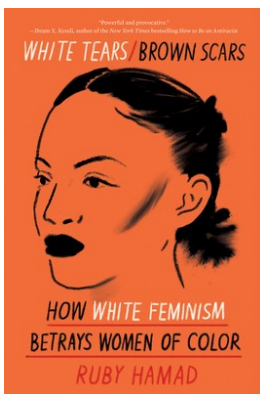




*Little Fires Everywhere*  
by Celeste Ng

A riveting novel that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives. *Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood —and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

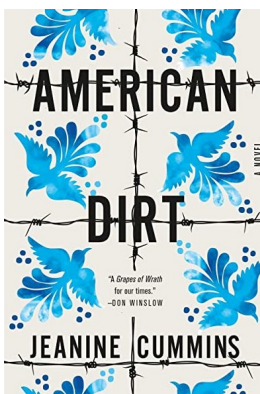
Recommended by Freya B.W. '24



*White Tears/Brown Scars*  
by Ruby Hamad

An explosive book of history and cultural criticism that argues that white feminism, from Australia to Zimbabwe to the United States, has been a weapon of white supremacy and patriarchy deployed against Black and Indigenous women, and women of color. With rigor and precision, Hamad builds a powerful argument about the legacy of white superiority we are socialized in, a reality we must apprehend in order to fight.

Recommended by Bonnie Y. '21



*American Dirt*  
by Jeanine Cummins

"An extremely well-researched and well-written story about a Mexican woman, Lydia, and her son Luca who migrate from Acapulco to the United States after the rest of the family is murdered by a drug cartel. *American Dirt* is a social issues thriller. Lydia is a bookstore owner who never thought of herself as having anything in common with the migrants she sees on the news, but after she comes up with the plan of disguising herself by posing as a migrant, she realizes that it won't really be a disguise: It's who she is now. I could not put this book down, and it has stayed with me months after finishing it." -D.H.

Recommended by Debby H.

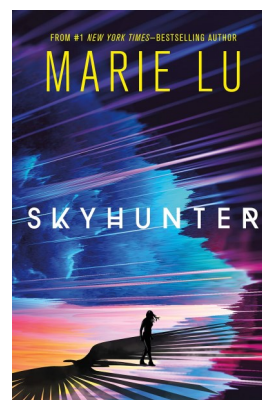


*A Little Devil in America*  
by Hanif Abdurraqib

With care and generosity, Abdurraqib explains the poignancy of performances big and small, each one feeling intensely familiar and vital, both timeless and desperately urgent. Filled with sharp insight, humor, and heart.

"A brilliantly written collection of essays about Black performance and American culture." -E.C.

Recommended by Erik C.



*Skyhunter*  
by Marie Lu

Talin is a Striker, a member of an elite fighting force that stands as the last defense for the only free nation in the world: Mara. A refugee, Talin knows firsthand the horrors of the Federation, a world-dominating war machine with its army of beasts known only as Ghosts. But when a mysterious prisoner is brought from the front to Mara's capital, Talin senses there's more to him than meets the eye. Only one thing is clear: Talin is ready to fight to the death alongside her fellow Strikers for the only homeland she has left.

"The sequel, *Steelstriker*, comes out September 28, 2021!" -S.P.

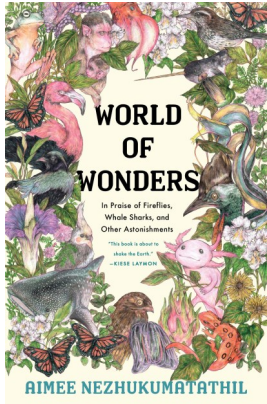
Recommended by Sephina P. '24



*Zeitoun*  
by Dave Eggers

The true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. Told with eloquence and compassion, *Zeitoun* is a riveting account of one family's unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water.

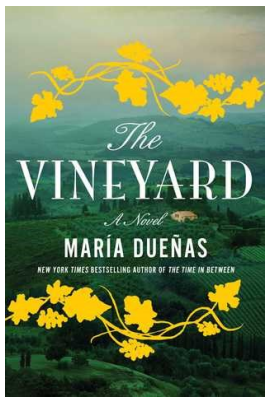
Recommended by Khalil W. '24



*World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments*  
by Aimee Nezhukumatathil

A collection of essays about the natural world, and the way its inhabitants can teach, support, and inspire us. Warm, lyrical, and gorgeously illustrated by Fumi Nakamura, *World of Wonders* is a book of sustenance and joy.

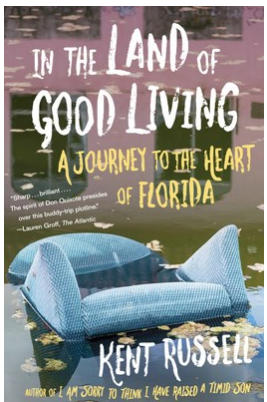
Recommended by Greta B.



*The Vineyard*  
by María Dueñas

From the turbulent young Mexican republic to flourishing Havana, and onward to the fertile vineyards of Jerez in the second half of the 19th century, Dueñas' new novel takes place on both sides of the Atlantic, the New World and the Old. This story of family intrigue vividly conjures the noise and grit of silver mines, and the earthier lure of ancient vineyards and magnificent cities whose splendor has faded. Here is a story of courage in the face of adversity and of a destiny forever altered by the force of passion.

Recommended by Paloma B.



*In the Land of Good Living*  
by Kent Russell

"A cleverly written travelogue in which the author and two friends walk the length of Florida to make a documentary. Amid the wit and eloquence, you also get a sobering portrait of this country through the lens of this strange corner of America." -E.C.

Recommended by Erik C.

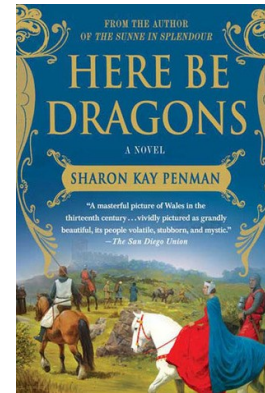


*Caraval*  
by Stephanie Garber

A legendary competition. A mesmerizing romance. An unbreakable bond between two sisters. Welcome to *Caraval* and beware of getting swept too far away.

"SO GOOD PLS READ IF YOU LIKE FANTASY ROMANCE!!! VERY MAGICAL, GREAT WORLDBUILDING, ETC. ETC." -E.W.

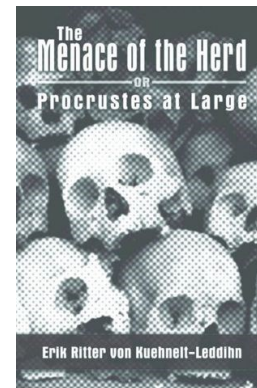
Recommended by Ellie W. '24



*Here Be Dragons*  
by Sharon Kay Penman

"This book instilled my love for Welsh language and culture. It reads like a high fantasy novel but tells the thrilling mostly historically accurate tale of Welsh princes and the struggle for freedom from England. Highly recommend for history buffs and fantasy lovers alike (there may also be some light romance sprinkled in)." -M.D.

Recommended by Maya D. '22

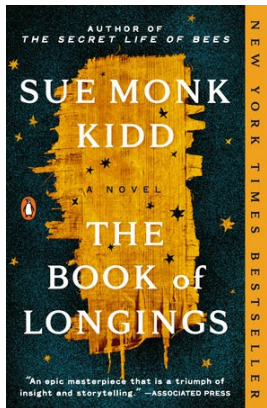


*The Menace of the Herd*  
by Erik Ritter von Kuehnelt-Leddihn

"I promise you, you won't get assigned anything even remotely like this book in any of your Lakeside years. If you are at all interested in reading something you initially disagree with, and if you appreciate authors with encyclopedic knowledge of the humanities, this book is for you. This book is exceedingly rare in the modern age, and provides a sort of intellectual liberation from all species of conventional wisdom. Written in 1943, *The Menace of the Herd* is an all-out attack on totalitarianism, egalitarianism, and government by the masses. More than criticism or apologia, though, this book is historical wisdom and oft-quotable insight from cover to cover." -L.P.

Recommended by Luca P. '21

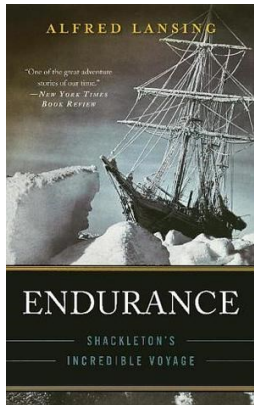




*The Book of Longings*  
by Sue Monk Kidd

Sue Monk Kidd takes an audacious approach to history and brings her acclaimed narrative gifts to imagine the story of a young woman named Ana. Raised in a wealthy family with ties to the ruler of Galilee, she is rebellious and ambitious, with a brilliant mind and a daring spirit. She engages in furtive scholarly pursuits and writes narratives about neglected and silenced women. Ana is expected to marry an older widower, a prospect that horrifies her. An encounter with eighteen-year-old Jesus changes everything.

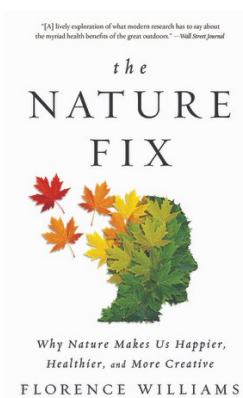
Recommended by Lindsay A.



*Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage*  
by Alfred Lansing

In August 1914, polar explorer Ernest Shackleton boarded the Endurance which eventually became locked in an island of ice. Thus began the legendary ordeal of Shackleton and his crew of twenty-seven men. Lansing brilliantly narrates the harrowing and miraculous voyage that has defined heroism for the modern age.

Recommended by Owen R. '21



*The Nature Fix*  
by Florence Williams

*The Nature Fix* demonstrates that our connection to nature is much more important to our cognition than we think and that even small amounts of exposure to the living world can improve our creativity and enhance our mood.

"An absorbing and tightly written overview of the many biological, psychological, and soulful benefits of being outside in the natural world." -E.C.

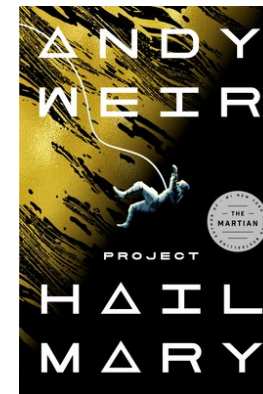
Recommended by Erik C.



*We Are Not Free*  
by Traci Chee

"Following 14 Nisei teens who've grown up together in Japantown, San Francisco, this is the story of our nation's shameful history of WWII Japanese internment camps. Told in alternating chapters that unfold with all the highs and lows of navigating young adulthood, each character is brilliantly and empathetically drawn, and their stories intertwine movingly to create an emotionally gripping whole." -C.P.

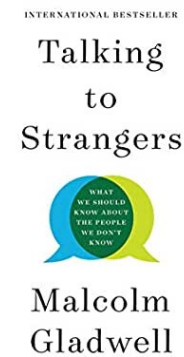
Recommended by Carly P.



*Project Hail Mary*  
by Andy Weir

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission--and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish. Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. Part scientific mystery, part dazzling interstellar journey, *Project Hail Mary* is a tale of discovery, speculation, and survival — taking us to places it never dreamed of going.

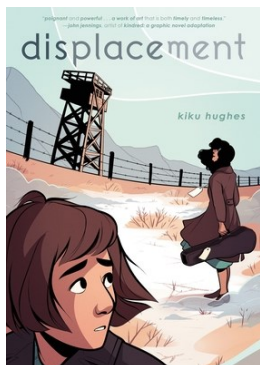
Recommended by Will M. '21



*Talking to Strangers*  
by Malcolm Gladwell

Something is very wrong, Gladwell argues, with the tools and strategies we use to make sense of people we don't know. And because we don't know how to talk to strangers, we are inviting conflict and misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect on our lives and our world. *Talking to Strangers* is a challenging and controversial excursion through history, psychology, and scandals taken straight from the news.

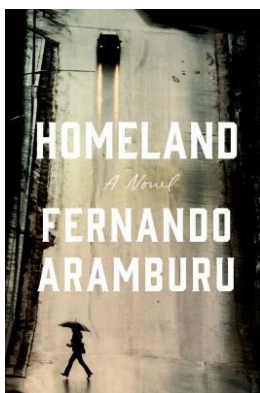
Recommended by Hallie X. '23



*Displacement*  
by Kiku Hughes

Kiku is on vacation in San Francisco when suddenly she finds herself displaced to the 1940s Japanese-American internment camp that her late grandmother, Ernestina, was forcibly relocated to during World War II. These displacements keep occurring until Kiku finds herself "stuck" back in time. Living alongside her young grandmother and other Japanese-American citizens in internment camps, Kiku gets the education she never received in history class. She witnesses the lives of Japanese-Americans who were denied their civil liberties and suffered greatly, but managed to cultivate community and commit acts of resistance in order to survive.

Recommended by Monica G.



*Homeland*  
by Fernando Aramburu

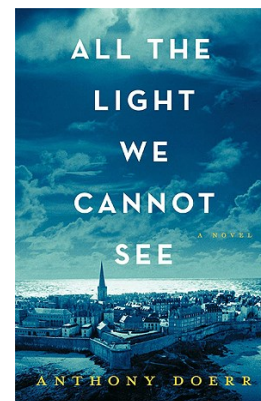
Here is the story of two families in small-town Basque country, pitted against each other by the ideology and violence of the terrorist group ETA, from the unrelentingly grim 1980s to October 2011 when the group proclaimed an end to its insurgency. Told through a succession of more than one hundred short sections devoted to a rich multiplicity of characters whose role in the story becomes clear as one reads.

Recommended by Paloma B.

*Invisible Cities*  
by Italo Calvino

"Short and meditative. Explores every city by exploring the different ways in which we experience cities. I loved this book." -C.A.

Recommended by Charlie A. '21



*All the Light We Cannot See*  
by Anthony Doerr

From the highly acclaimed, multiple award - winning Anthony Doerr, the stunningly beautiful instant New York Times bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Recommended by Owen R. '21

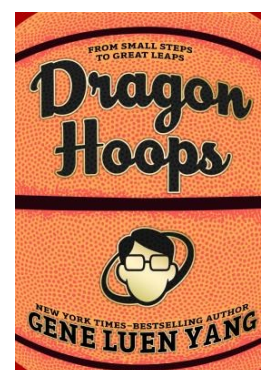


*Red, White, & Royal Blue*  
by Casey McQuiston

When his mother became President, Alex Claremont-Diaz was promptly cast as the American equivalent of a young royal. There's only one problem: Alex has beef with the actual prince, Henry, across the pond. And when the tabloids get hold of a photo involving an Alex-Henry altercation, a plan is formulated for damage control: staging a truce between the two rivals. What begins as a fake friendship grows deeper than either Alex or Henry could have imagined.

"This book is both funny and touching, and it's my favorite book of all time. The characters feel so unique and real that it's easy to lose yourself in the book." -R.T.

Recommended by Ria T. '24



*Dragon Hoops*  
by Gene Luen Yang

"Part memoir of Yang's years as a high school teacher, part history of basketball and its intersections with race and gender, and part chronicle of the O'Dowd Dragons basketball team. An insightful, global, and personal account of courage and the power of taking a single first step into the unknown." -M.G.

Recommended by Monica G.



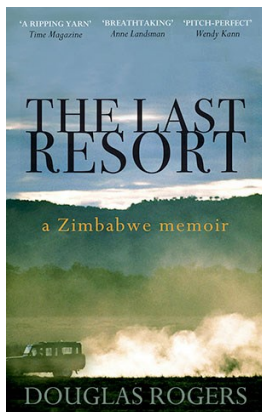




*Dancing at the Pity Party*  
by Tyler Feder

From before her mother's first oncology appointment through the stages of her cancer to the funeral, sitting shiva, and afterward, Feder tells her story in this graphic novel that is full of piercing--but also often funny--details. Part poignant cancer memoir and part humorous reflection on a motherless life, this debut graphic novel is extraordinarily comforting and engaging.

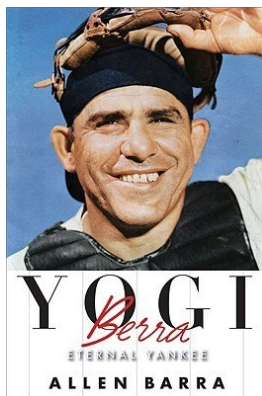
**Recommended by Monica G.**



*The Last Resort*  
by Douglas Rogers

"Born and raised in Zimbabwe, Douglas Rogers is the son of white farmers living through that country's long and tense transition from postcolonial rule. He escaped the dull future mapped out for him by his parents for one of adventure and excitement in Europe and the United States. But when Zimbabwe's president Robert Mugabe launched his violent program to reclaim white-owned land and Rogers's parents were caught in the cross fire, everything changed. I read this book with my book club and Lakeside's own Ms. Aegerter came to our gathering to discuss the book and growing up in Zimbabwe which was a real treat!" -D.H.

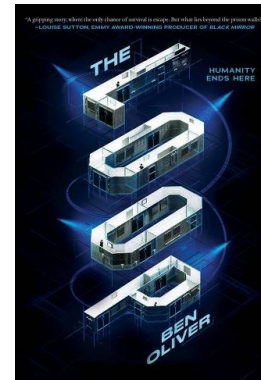
**Recommended by Debby H.**



*Yogi Berra: Eternal Yankee*  
by Allen Barra

"Baseball lovers will no doubt love this book about the ultimate winner and a true American hero. It is not just baseball, but a special human being and a slice of American history." -B.M.

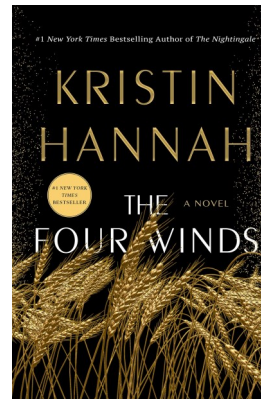
**Recommended by Ben M.**



*The Loop*  
by Ben Oliver

Life inside The Loop--the futuristic death row for teens under eighteen--is one long repetitive purgatory. But when news of the encroaching chaos in the outside world reaches the inmates and disorder begins to strike, the prison becomes the least of their worries.

**Recommended by Max S. '24**



*The Four Winds*  
by Kristin Hannah

A powerful American epic about love and heroism and hope, set during the Great Depression, a time when the country was in crisis and at war with itself, when millions were out of work and even the land seemed to have turned against them. A testament to hope, resilience, and the strength of the human spirit to survive adversity.

**Recommended by Hallie X. '23**



*Shadow and Bone Trilogy*  
by Leigh Bardugo

Soldier. Summoner. Saint. Orphaned and expendable, Alina Starkov is a soldier who knows she may not survive her first trek across the Shadow Fold—a swath of unnatural darkness crawling with monsters. But when her regiment is attacked, Alina unleashes dormant magic not even she knew she possessed. Now Alina will enter a lavish world of royalty and intrigue as she trains with the Grisha, her country's magical military elite. As the threat to the kingdom mounts and Alina unlocks the secrets of her past, she will make a dangerous discovery that could threaten all she loves and the very future of a nation.

**Recommended by Charlie M. '22**

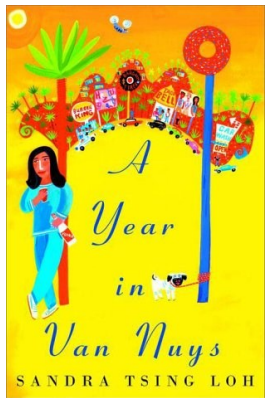
*The Hours*  
Michael Cunningham



*The Hours*  
by Michael Cunningham

In *The Hours*, Cunningham draws inventively on the life and work of Virginia Woolf to tell the story of a group of contemporary characters struggling with the conflicting claims of love and inheritance, hope and despair. Passionate, profound, and deeply moving, this is Cunningham's most remarkable achievement to date.

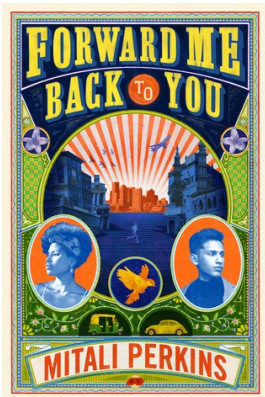
Recommended by Lindsay A.



*A Year in Van Nuys*  
by Sandra Tsing Loh

"This book is truly an absolute hot mess, but in a strangely charming way. Much unlike *A Year in Provence*, it's a sardonic memoir about a thirty-some author having a mid-life (third-of-a-life?) crisis because she can't finish her novel. Mostly she complains about her eyebags and draws little pictures showing how said eyebags are akin to that of Bert Lahr (of Wizard of Oz fame). There is zero plot. It's a party! Go! Go read!" -L.J.

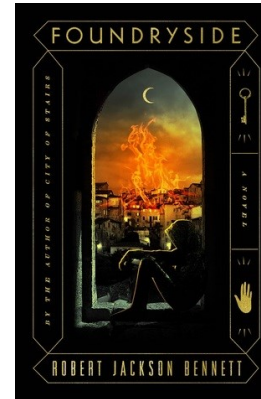
Recommended by Landi J. '23



*Forward Me Back to You*  
by Mitali Perkins

"Robin and Katina's tentative new friendship grows deeper when they both go on a service trip to Kolkata, working with an organization that supports victims of human trafficking. He's hoping to learn something about his own adoption from the city years before and she's trying to figure out how to move forward after a violent incident in her past. Complex subject matter is handled with care in this thoughtful book that lifts up the transformative powers of love and kindness." -C.P.

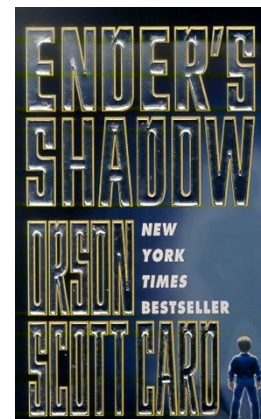
Recommended by Carly P.



*Foundryside*  
by Robert Jackson Bennett

"This book is so good, and it's off and running from the very beginning. Everything about this book was compelling, from its inventive world-building, to the women of the story who drive most of the action, to the unlikely alliances between its main characters, to its unique blending of cyberpunk, sci-fi, and fantasy. I actually came here to recommend the sequel, *Shorefall*, but you should read *Foundryside* first." -J.N.

Recommended by James N.



*Ender's Shadow*  
by Orson Scott Card

"I first read this book in 6th grade, and have continued to love it ever since. Every time I read it, there are new aspects and intricacies that are revealed. This book is about kids in a space school run by a futuristic government army. Although the main characters are children, this book deals with some very deep ideas about classism, intelligence, and the meaning of life." -J.B.

Recommended by Jaiden B. '21

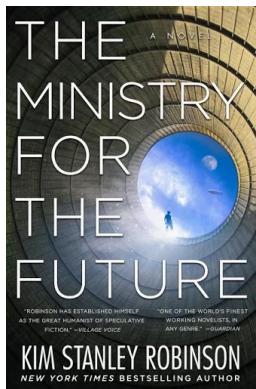


*The Black Tides of Heaven*  
by Neon Yang

"In a culture that does not enforce gender at birth, twins Mokoya and Akeha grow up to grapple with their fates and what it means to find their own paths in life. A fantasy novella with a subtly and convincingly crafted world, complex characters, and commentary on social structures and gender. A quick and worthwhile read! There are more novellas in the series if you want to dig deeper into the world! -M.G.

Recommended by Monica G.

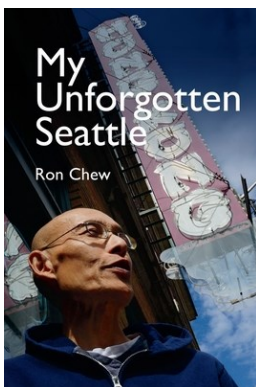




*The Ministry for the Future*  
by Kim Stanley Robinson

“An optimistic, grounded, and deeply intricate story about how we might stop climate change. It focuses on the titular ‘Ministry for the Future,’ a UN body tasked with coordinating the world's efforts to do so. Reading this electrified me.” -C.A.

Recommended by Charlie A. '21



*My Unforgotten Seattle*  
by Ron Chew

“This book is an undertaking, but if you are interested in stories of Seattle from the last fifty years or so, Ron Chew provides a compelling view on the life of our changing region. As a student, activist, labor organizer, journalist, museum director, and all-around personality within the CID and broader Seattle, Chew's life intersects with all sorts of important moments and people as he moves through Beacon Hill, the U District and UW, and the CID.” -J.N.

Recommended by James N.



*Carry On*  
by Rainbow Rowell

Simon Snow is the worst Chosen One who's ever been chosen. Half the time, Simon can't even make his wand work, and the other half, he starts something on fire. His mentor's avoiding him, his girlfriend broke up with him, and there's a magic-eating monster running around, wearing Simon's face. *Carry On* is a ghost story, a love story and a mystery. It has just as much kissing and talking as you'd expect from a Rainbow Rowell story - but far, far more monsters.

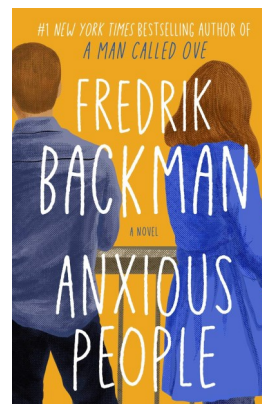
Recommended by Darby C. '24



*Lore*  
by Alexandra Bracken

“This book is the perfect mix of Greek mythology and modern times. The fundamental plot is based in the mythology, but the story is still incredibly creative. It's an excellent book for anyone who likes mythology or fantasy.” -R.T.

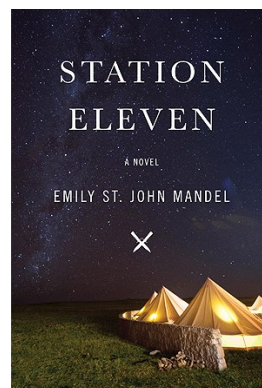
Recommended by Ria T. '24



*Anxious People*  
by Fredrik Backman

Looking at real estate isn't usually a life-or-death situation, but an apartment open house becomes just that when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes a group of strangers hostage. Each of the hostages carries a lifetime of grievances, hurts, secrets, and passions that are ready to boil over. None of them is entirely who they appear to be. And all of them—the bank robber included—desperately crave some sort of rescue. A charming, poignant novel about a crime that never took place, a would-be bank robber who disappears into thin air, and eight extremely anxious strangers who find they have more in common than they ever imagined.

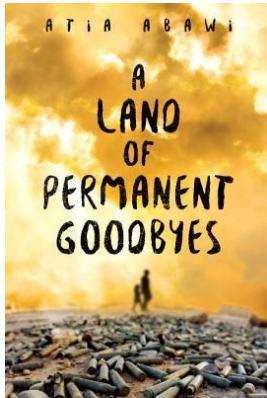
Recommended by Kaitlyn C. '24



*Station Eleven*  
by Emily St. John Mandel

“A well-crafted post-apocalyptic novel about an itinerant theater company/orchestra trying to survive as they move through the middle of North America.” - E.C.

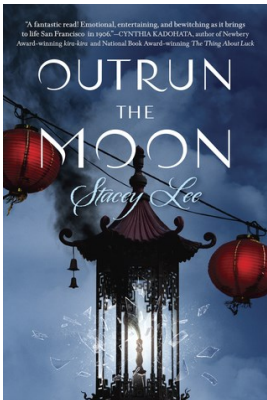
Recommended by Erik C.



*A Land of Permanent Goodbyes*  
by Atia Abawi

In a country ripped apart by war, Tareq lives with his big and loving family...until the bombs strike. His city is in ruins. His life is destroyed. And those who have survived are left to figure out their uncertain future. Tareq's family knows that to continue to stay alive, they must leave. As they travel as refugees from Syria to Turkey to Greece, facing danger at every turn, Tareq must find the resilience and courage to complete his harrowing journey.

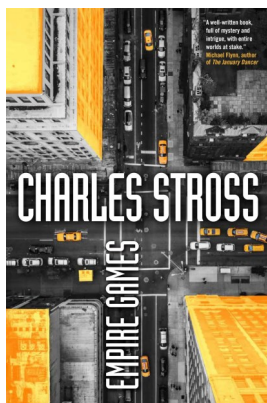
Recommended by Sonya H. '24



*Outrun the Moon*  
by Stacey Lee

"Calling all historical fiction fans; Mercy Wong is an ambitious and determined (not to say stubborn!) young Chinese-American woman who has won herself a place at a prestigious (and previously all-white) girls' school in San Francisco when the historic earthquake of 1906 hit, leveling her school and sending the city's survivors to camp - and coexist - in Golden Gate Park. Lee is a founding member of We Need Diverse Books, and her storytelling packs a real emotional punch." -C.P.

Recommended by Carly P.

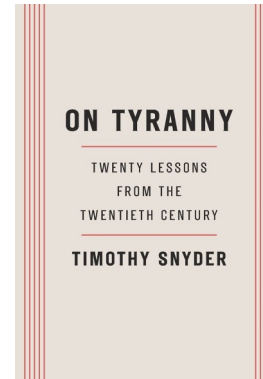


*Empire Games*  
by Charles Stross

Two nuclear superpowers are set on a collision course. And two women—a mother and her long-lost daughter—are about to find themselves on opposite sides of the confrontation.

"A cool spy novel in which agents can travel between different versions of Earth." -E.C.

Recommended by Erik C.

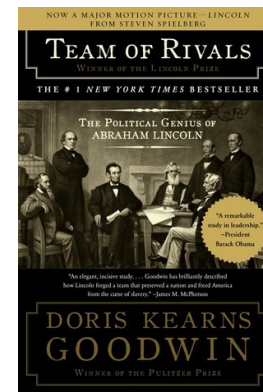


**ON TYRANNY**  
TWENTY LESSONS  
FROM THE  
TWENTIETH CENTURY  
**TIMOTHY SNYDER**

*On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*  
by Timothy Snyder

"A rewardingly quick and eye-opening read, *On Tyranny* is a relevant and thought-provoking guide for anyone who wishes to continue to expand their awareness of our political institutions. I would consider it to be an essential read for everyone, regardless of their interest (or lack thereof) in political science. Snyder's writing is precise and clear, making the book read like a story rather than a textbook." -D.G-G.

Recommended by Dani G-G. '22

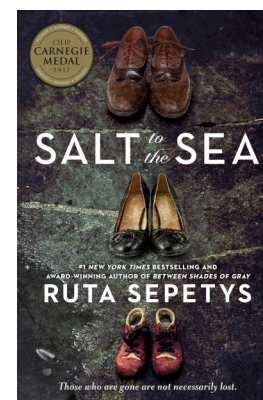


*Team of Rivals*  
by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin illuminates Lincoln's political career in this highly original work, as the one-term congressman and prairie lawyer rises from obscurity to prevail over three rivals of national reputation to become president.

"If you are a history buff this is a must read. If you are not a history buff, you may become one if you read *Team of Rivals*." -B.M.

Recommended by Ben M.

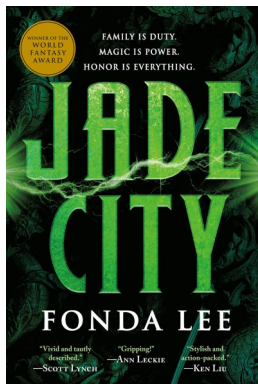


*Salt to the Sea*  
by Ruta Sepetys

"This book is absolutely incredible. It is beautifully written and I was captivated from the first to last chapter. I found the story to be painfully real, as it references historical events that truly occurred. The characters are well developed and I felt as though I was experiencing the tragedy, pain, fear, and war along with them. Very powerful, this is definitely one of my favorite books!" -J.F.

Recommended by Jennifer F. '23

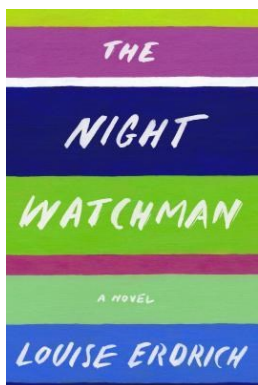




*Jade City*  
by Fonda Lee

"I tremendously enjoyed this book. It's a fantasy story about organized crime families (already unique) and has one of the most compelling magic systems I've ever read (in that it takes the idea of 'magic as a fungible resource' to its logical extreme). *Jade City's* plot also *shines*, and it has complex, interesting characters to back that up. I couldn't put it down." -C.A.

Recommended by Charlie A. '21 and Carly P.



*The Night Watchman*  
by Louise Erdrich

Based on the life of author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.

Recommended by Lindsay A.

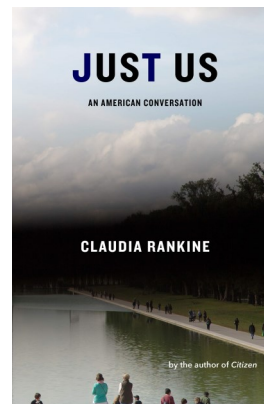


*Little*  
by Edward Carey

The wry, macabre, unforgettable tale of an ambitious orphan in Revolutionary Paris, befriended by royalty and radicals, who transforms herself into the legendary Madame Tussaud.

"This eccentric book is a very different take on the French Revolution with a focus on art and taxidermy and wax. One of those books you can't put down because it's fun and a bit weird." -M.A.C.

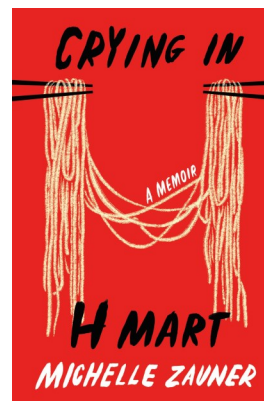
Recommended by Mary Anne C.



*Just Us*  
by Claudia Rankine

*Just Us* is an invitation to discover what it takes to stay in the room together, even and especially in breaching the silence, guilt, and violence that follow direct addresses of whiteness. Rankine's questions disrupt the false comfort of our culture's liminal and private spaces—the airport, the theater, the dinner party, the voting booth—where neutrality and politeness live on the surface of differing commitments, beliefs, and prejudices as our public and private lives intersect. *Just Us* is Rankine's most intimate work, less interested in being right than in being true, being together.

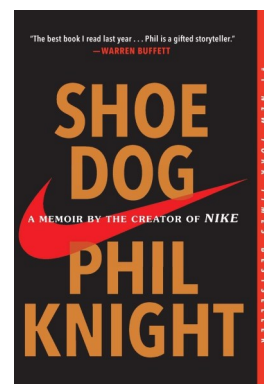
Recommended by Lindsay A.



*Crying in H Mart*  
by Michelle Zauner

With humor and heart, Zauner tells of growing up one of the few Asian American kids at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of struggling with her mother's particular, high expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; of treasured months spent in her grandmother's tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of food. An unflinching, powerful memoir about growing up Korean American, losing her mother, and forging her own identity.

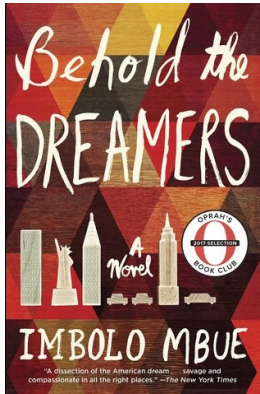
Recommended by Kara O. '22



*Shoe Dog*  
by Phil Knight

"If you're interested in business - this is the story about how Nike began as a small business and turned into, well, Nike. Super cool to learn about, and not at all hard to understand (business vocab terms are explained). Plus, it's a great story - definitely recommend!" -G.G.

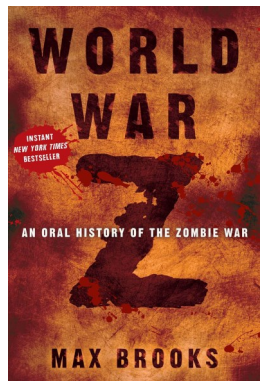
Recommended by Gabi G. '24



*Behold the Dreamers*  
by Imbolo Mbue

A compulsively readable debut novel about marriage, immigration, class, race, and the trapdoors in the American Dream—the unforgettable story of a young Cameroonian couple making a new life in New York just as the Great Recession upends the economy.

Recommended by Lindsay A.

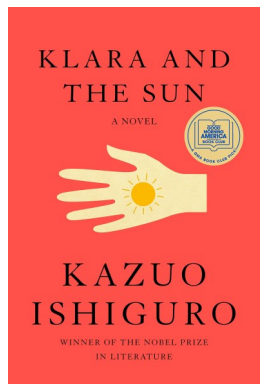


*World War Z*  
by Max Brooks

We survived the zombie apocalypse, but how many of us are still haunted by that terrible time? We have (temporarily?) defeated the living dead, but at what cost? Told in the haunting and riveting voices of the men and women who witnessed the horror firsthand, *World War Z* is the only record of the pandemic.

“I read it all within two days. I lost hours of sleep. 10/10 would recommend. “ -Y.L.

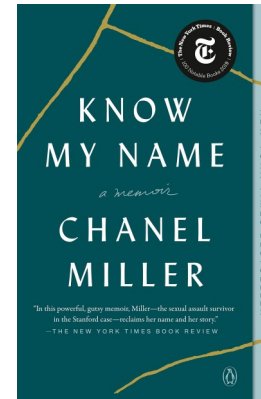
Recommended by Yoon L. '23



*Klara and the Sun*  
by Kazuo Ishiguro

*Klara and the Sun* tells the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. A thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?

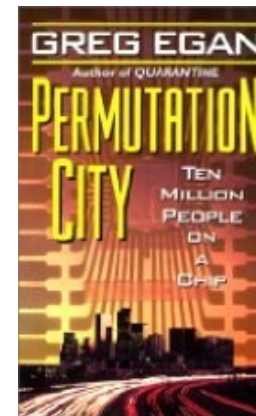
Recommended by Tiffany Z. '21 and Lindsay A.



*Know My Name*  
by Chanel Miller

*Know My Name* will forever transform the way we think about sexual assault, challenging our beliefs about what is acceptable and speaking truth to the tumultuous reality of healing. It also introduces readers to an extraordinary writer, one whose words have already changed our world. Her story illuminates a culture biased to protect perpetrators, indicts a criminal justice system designed to fail the most vulnerable, and, ultimately, shines with the courage required to move through suffering and live a full and beautiful life.

Recommended by Bonnie Y. '21



*Permutation City*  
by Greg Egan

*Permutation City* is the tale of a man with a vision - how to create immortality - and how that vision becomes something way beyond his control.

“Reading this book was like being struck by lightning. This is the most original exploration of simulation theory I've ever read.” -C.A.

Recommended by Charlie A. '21

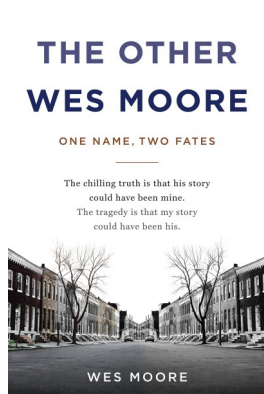


*Demon Slayer, Vol. 1*  
by Koyoharu Gotouge

In Taisho-era Japan, Tanjiro Kamado is a kindhearted boy who makes a living selling charcoal. But his peaceful life is shattered when a demon slaughters his entire family. His little sister Nezuko is the only survivor, but she has been transformed into a demon herself! Learning to slay demons won't be easy but Tanjiro is determined and sets out on a dangerous journey to find a way to return his sister to normal and destroy the demon who ruined his life.

Recommended by Monica G.

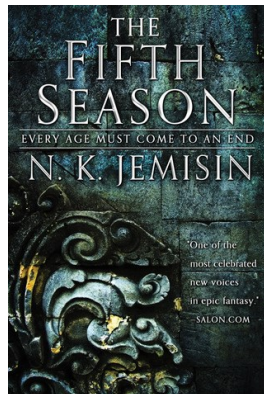




*The Other Wes Moore*  
by Wes Moore

Two kids with the same name lived in the same decaying city. One went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. Told in alternating dramatic narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

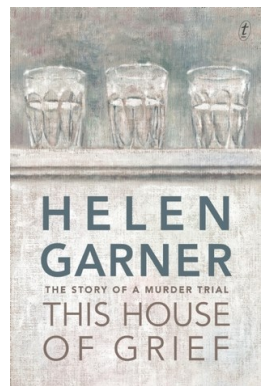
**Recommended by Cate L. '22**



*The Fifth Season*  
by N.K. Jemisin

This is the way the world ends. . .for the last time. It starts with the great red rift across the heart of the world's sole continent, spewing ash that blots out the sun. It starts with death, with a murdered son and a missing daughter. It starts with betrayal, and long dormant wounds rising up to fester. This is the Stillness, a land long familiar with catastrophe, where the power of the earth is wielded as a weapon. And where there is no mercy.

**Recommended by Devin P.**

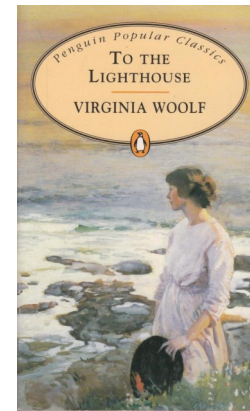


*This House of Grief*  
by Helen Garner

Garner tells the story of a man and his broken life. She presents the theatre of the courtroom with its actors and audience, all gathered for the purpose of bearing witness to the truth, players in the extraordinary and unpredictable drama of the quest for justice.

"Garner goes about her reporting of this infamous crime in a unique and masterful way - unlike anything else I've read in the genre of True-Crime non-fiction." -B.L.

**Recommended by Bob L.**

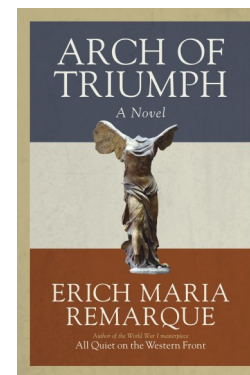


*To the Lighthouse*  
by Virginia Woolf

The serene and maternal Mrs. Ramsay, the tragic yet absurd Mr. Ramsay, and their children and assorted guests are on holiday on the Isle of Skye. From the seemingly trivial postponement of a visit to a nearby lighthouse, Woolf constructs a remarkable, moving examination of the complex tensions and allegiances of family life and the conflict between men and women.

"This was a really short but intriguing and rewarding read! The writing is beautiful and the story is well executed and heart wrenching. I enjoyed it immensely and look forward to reading many more of her works." -M.D.

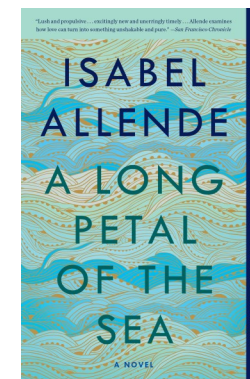
**Recommended by Maya D. '22**



*Arch of Triumph*  
by Erich Maria Remarque

"A profound, brooding, and eloquently written novel about a German surgeon working undercover in Paris in the late 1930s. Remarque also wrote *All Quiet On The Western Front*." -E.C.

**Recommended by Erik C.**



*A Long Petal of the Sea*  
by Isabel Allende

This epic novel spanning decades and crossing continents follows two young people as they flee the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War in search of a place to call home. A masterful work of historical fiction about hope, exile, and belonging, *A Long Petal of the Sea* shows Isabel Allende at the height of her powers.

**Recommended by Paloma B.**