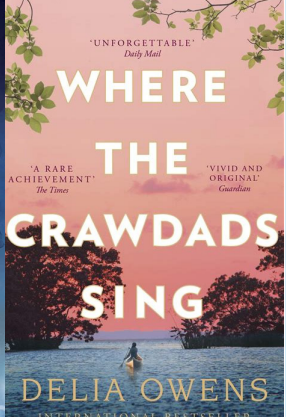
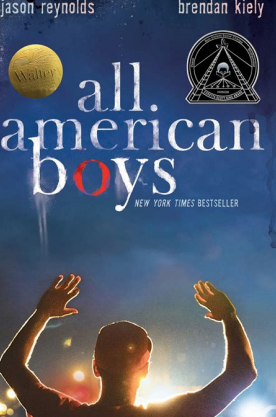
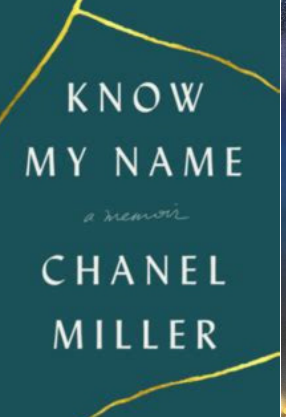
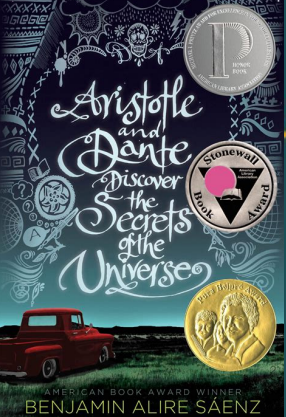
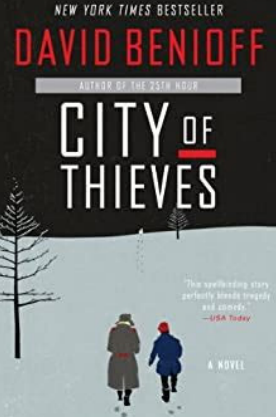
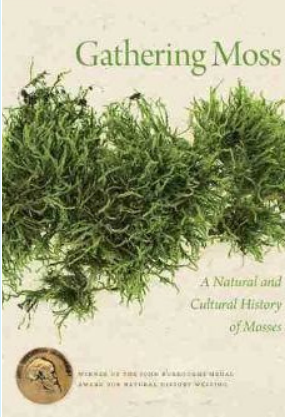
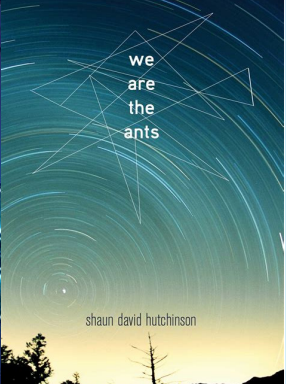
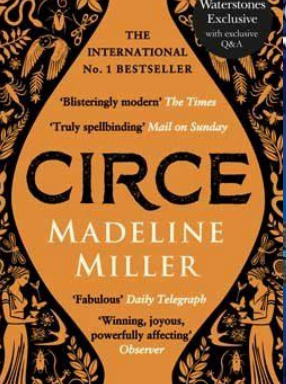
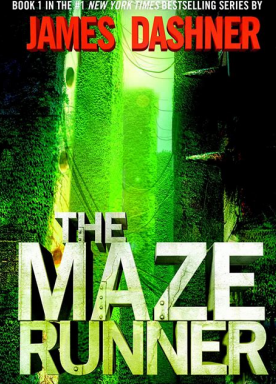
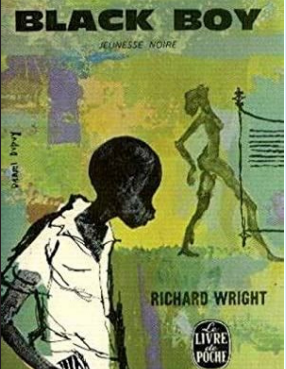
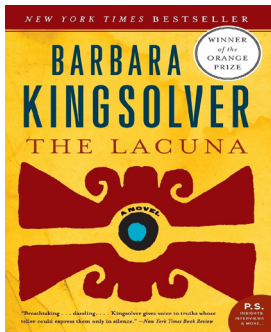


The Cardinal Review Presents:
Summer Book Recommendations
 by Upper School Students





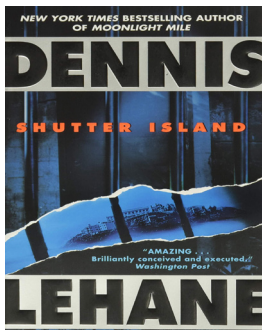
Alden M. '21

The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver

The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver follows a boy from a small island off the coast of Mexico who is in love with the water. The story tracks his experience with a wide range of historical figures (including Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Lev Trotsky, and many more) as he becomes caught in-between his native country and his adopted home in the United States.

This book is beautifully written, pulling the reader into a plot filled with twists and turns but never moving so fast as to leave the scenery un-illustrated or to give the characters inadequate complexity.

Alden would recommend looking at pictures of some of the paintings/murals/art while reading the book, as they help to provide a wonderful pallet for your imagination to work off of.



Grace G. '22

Shutter Island by Dennis Lehane

A detective and his partner travel to a mental hospital where one of the world's most dangerous killers has escaped.

The ending is insane! The movie is also very good, so it is fun to read and watch both.



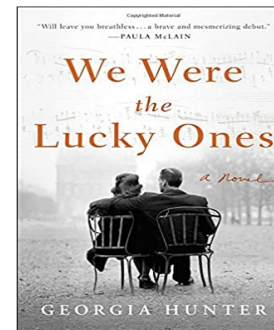
Zola M. '22

The Flatshare by Beth O'Leary

Tiffany finally finds a place to live---with Leon, who will never be at the apartment when Tiffany is there, due to his night-shift nurse schedule. Through many notes, texts, and some light Facebook stalking the flatmates begin to develop a friendship---despite never having met.

This book is inviting and exhilarating, and written in a way that continues drawing the reader in until the very last page.

TW: there are mentions and memories of emotional and verbal abuse in a romantic relationship.



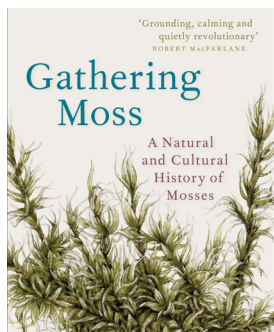
Annabelle B. '22

We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter

We Were the Lucky Ones follows the story of a family of Polish Jews throughout WW2 and the stories of the siblings as they try to stay alive while being persecuted by the Nazis. It is based on a true story.

It is truly an amazing story and shows more of what Jewish people in Europe went through than just the concentration camps. The fact that it is based on a true story adds a layer of depth to an already incredible book.

Would not recommend to anyone younger than 9th grade as it is a bit gruesome and depressing.



Stella M. '21

Gathering Moss by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Gathering Moss is an exploration of the natural and cultural story of moss written through the lense of personal experiences. You will come out of this book with a greater attention and excitement for the complex and beautiful environment around you and a new perspective on the depth of our ecosystems.

Gathering Moss has given me whole new worlds to explore. And those worlds are all around me! Did you know a clump of moss functions basically the same as a mini rainforest, complete with predators, prey, and mini ecosystems? Did you know that moss creates its own atmosphere? This book has made me look at the world even closer.

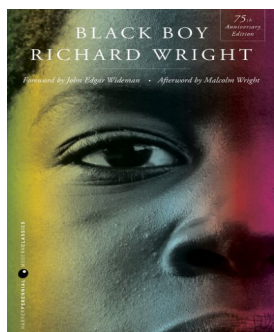


Lauren L. '24

Chain of Gold by Cassandra Clare

Chain of Gold is a YA fantasy series (2 books so far) that follows multiple shadow hunters in London. One of the main characters, Cordelia Carstairs, has been training to be a warrior since she was young. And when her father supposedly commits a crime (is accused), Cordelia and her brother have to figure out what is happening.

There are so many great plot twists, characters, and mysteries in this book. It also follows the children of the main characters from *The Infernal Devices* series (which is also amazing).

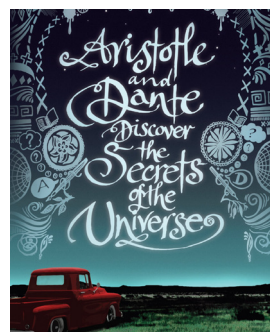


Dylan K. '23

Black Boy by Richard Wright

Black Boy is Richard Wright's autobiography about his daily struggles with hunger, race, and development of self-expression.

I would recommend this book because I enjoy Richard Wright's writing and it provides a nice illustration of society at the time.

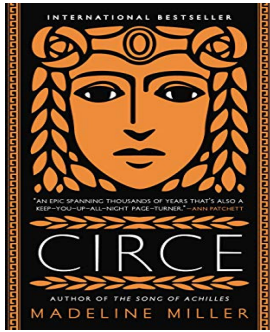


Annabelle B. '22

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Part coming of age, part friendship, part historical fiction, Aristotle and Dante is an amazing book that tells the story of Ari and Dante throughout years of friendship and troubles in the 1970's.

It is written beautifully, an easy read, and overall just a stunning book with an amazing story.

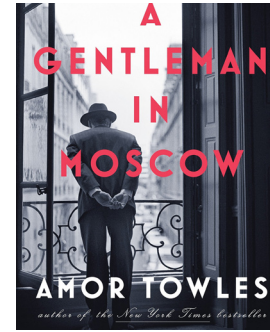


Ella J. '22

Circe
by Madeline Miller

Circe dives deep into the life of the goddess Circe. Whereas Circe was a side character and one of many antagonists in Homer's *Odyssey*, this book brings all of the details of her story to life, beyond her interaction with one of Greek mythology's most well-known male heroes. In this story, Odysseus is merely a side character and Circe assumes the role of the protagonist with all of the nuance and character development which that role requires.

This book weaves myths together in a beautiful way and I would highly recommend it!

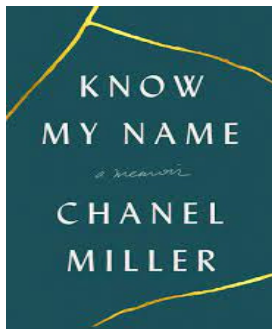


Ally P. '22

A Gentleman in Moscow
by Amor Towles

A Gentleman in Moscow is about a Russian aristocrat in the Soviet era who has to live solely in a hotel throughout Stalin's rule.

Ally recommends reading this book as it is historical fiction and is very interesting.



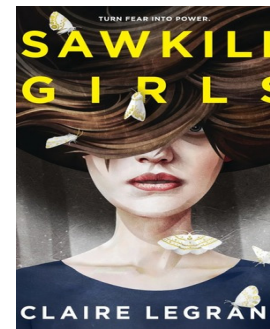
Harper S. '24

Know My Name: A Memoir
by Chanel Miller

The book follows Chanel's sexual assault and the trial that followed.

I recommend this book because it paints an important picture of the what a victim of sexual assault goes through. It's a difficult and emotional book to read but it's essential.

TW: sexual assault



Claudia L. '24

Sawkill Girls
by Claire Legrand

Marion moves to Sawkill Island, a small community with a dark past. Girls have been disappearing from the island, never to be seen again. The mysterious evil haunting this island has gone unchallenged for decades...until now.

It is a gripping read, with a good plot and characters. There is also a bit of ace representation which is always good to see!

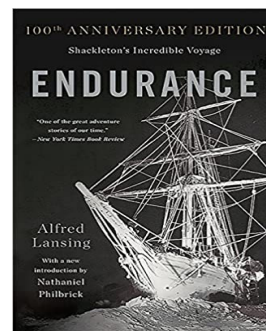


Benjamin W. '24

Spectre Rising
by C.W. Lemoine

Spectre Rising is the first book of a series, in which, former fighter pilot Cal “Spectre” Martin attempts to unveil a conspiracy and find his wife who went missing on a training mission.

I would recommend this book because it is the legendary beginning of an amazing crime/conspiracy book series. I highly recommend this book and the books to follow it. Make sure to read the two books after this book, as, frankly, they are better.

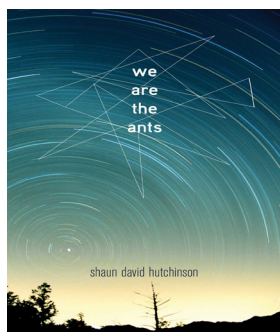


Silas L. '24

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage
by Alfred Lansing

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage is about Ernest Shackleton's treacherous journey through the Antarctic in 1914. He sailed to the Antarctic and explored thousands of miles of snow and ice at an excruciating pace while enduring the harsh polar climate. It is an intense and engrossing nonfiction book that would be perfect for summer reading.

I recommend this book because it is motivating to read about real life exploration and teaches people about endurance.



Jackson D. '24

We Are the Ants
by Shaun David Hutchinson

We Are the Ants is about a teenager who is given the power to stop the apocalypse. The book covers his thought process when making the decision and the different reasons behind it.

It's a fun read, and gets you thinking. It seems like such an obvious answer, but the main character explores different way to think about it.

It is my all time favorite book.

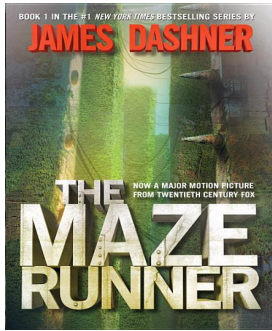


Simon M. '24

Thorngost
by Tone Almhjell

A dark fantasy story about Niklas, a young boy whose “troll-hunting” friend moved away, and whose mother is dead. She had been sick for a long time, and he almost never went to see her. However, when he went to say goodbye, she told the doctors to keep him away from her, for she was a thornghost. Since then, Niklas has found coping in playing games and pranking the other townspeople, but he still suffers from nightmares of his mother's death. One fateful night, he discovers a whole new world, influenced heavily by his imagination, is in danger. He and his trusty lynx friend he makes along the way enter this twisted world to attempt to save it, as well as his own.

It's dark, intriguing, and despite being for kids, its great for all ages.



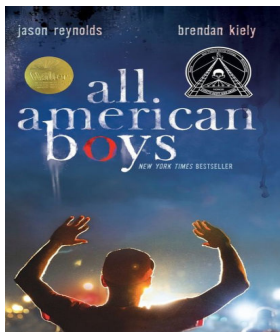
Harry C. '24

Maze Runner
by Harry Curtis

The Maze Runner is a sci-fi/fantasy book where a bunch of people are stuck in a maze. It is hard to write about it without spoilers but it is good!

I read it last summer and read the entire series really quickly because it was good!

It isn't a very happy go lucky book as a quick warning.



Alex MB '24

All American Boys
by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

All American Boys is about police brutality and racial activism. It focuses on the perspectives of two different boys: one the victim of police brutality and one a witness to the same event.

It is a very good book and is very interesting and powerful.



Kaleigh C. '22

With the Fire on High
by Elizabeth Acevedo

With the Fire on High follows a teen mom trying to navigate her passion for cooking, school, a baby, and keep up a good social life.

I think it is a very relatable, interesting, and powerful book that shows the ups and downs of being a young mom trying to navigate the world.

The author, Elizabeth Acevedo, also has some other interesting books to check out as well.

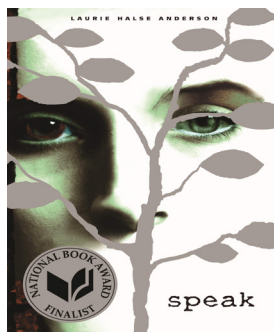


Isabelle T. '24

Diary of an Oxygen Thief
by Anonymous

This story follows the life of the narrator through heartbreak and alcoholism. He is fueled by psychologically manipulating women. The book was published to tell his side of the story of a relationship with his female fling, Aisling.

I think it is nothing like what I've seen in school readings but it tackles important issues like mental health and the reality of the psychological problems that people face.



Margaux S-L '24

Speak
by Laurie Halse Anderson

Speak is about a girl and how she copes with school after traumatic events...these are later explained in the book.

I would recommend this book because it is a quick read and is educational for those who have not dealt with what the main character has dealt with.

TW: sexual assault, mental illness



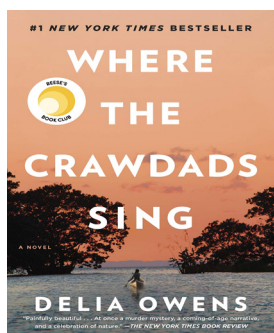
Simon M. '24

Some Kind of Happiness
by Claire Legrand

Finley Hart has been sent to her grandparents for the summer. However, her dad and the rest of her family are very, very different. She and her dad live a very casual life, while her grandparents uphold traditions and formalities as if they were laws. Finley has also never met said grandparents. The other big problem in Finley's life is her blue days, where life feels overwhelming, and it is hard to keep her head up. Her only retreat is the Everwood: a forest kingdom that exists in the pages of her notebook. When she discovers the massive forest behind her grandparents house, mysteries pile up, and Finley's reality and fantasy starts to collide. If she wants to save the Everwood, she'll first have to save herself.

It is a beautiful story about a young girl coping with reality in the most wonderful but dangerous way. It is very relatable for a lot of kids, especially during the pandemic, and it is very empowering.

TW: depression, cancer, terminal illness, abuse



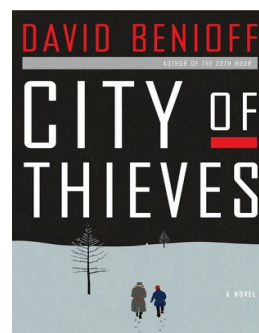
Sadie G. '24

Where the Crawdads Sing
by Delia Owens

Where the Crawdads Sing describes the life of Kya Clark, known to most of the characters in the book as the "Marsh Girl". Taking place primarily in the 1960s and 70s in a quiet fishing village, Kya, after years of alienation and misguided treatment by the villagers, is suspected of murdering local boy Chase Andrews.

It's a very detailed book and the descriptions of the characters and the scenery are just beautiful and imaginative. The story is heartfelt and you truly start to care for the characters, especially Kya, by the end of the story. It also has a great twist!

The beginning is kind of confusing and wordy but pushing forward is definitely worth it!

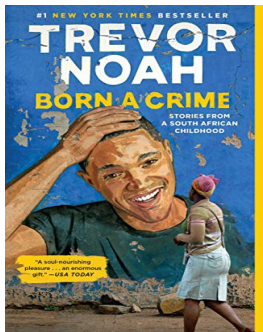


J.D. K. '23

City of Thieves
by David Benioff

Two russians look for eggs during WWII and get into various troubles along the way.

It is hilarious and poignant and the perfect novel.



Luisa H. '24

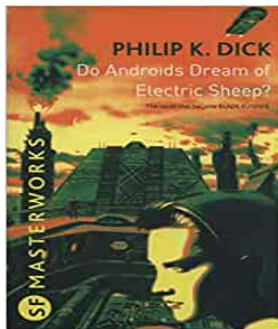
Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood

by Trevor Noah

Written by the comedian Trevor Noah who uses humor to talk about the story of his life and his experiences being born as a mixed child during South African apartheid.

This might be one of my favorite books of all time. It's funny and clever and the "characters" (real people) are retold so brilliantly that it's impossible not to read it again and again, if only for Trevor's mother. It brings the topic of apartheid up close, told by someone who experienced it in a very unique way. Intense stories are told with good humor, and despite everything, it's a very hopeful book.

While race definitely has a factor in the book, it's not the entire focus. Trevor Noah also includes stories of his childhood in South Africa, from selling mixtapes to going to street parties. All around, it's an amazing, hilarious book that brings a perspective on apartheid that is so much better than slow, unengaging history books.



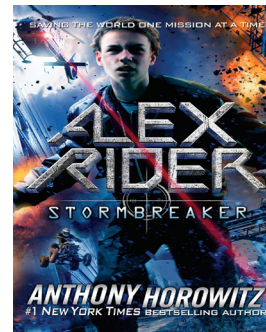
Cole P. '24

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep

by Phillip K. Dick

The book follows Rick Deckard, a bounty hunter, as he tries to retire six replicants or human-like androids. Once he retires these replicants he can finally get a real goat which is a status symbol in the post-world war three world. The story of John Isidore, a worker who works at an animal repair facility for broken electric animals is also intertwined until Deckard and Isidore eventually meet.

The book is the basis of the original Blade Runner film and gives new context to the movie. It also talks about why religion exists and what makes people human. The story is interesting and asks difficult moral questions about the future of life on earth.



Justin S. '22

Stormbreaker (Alex Rider Series)

by Anthony Horowitz

When 14-year-old Alex Rider discovers that his uncle's accidental death was in fact no accident, he becomes suspicious of his uncle's true identity. He discovers that his uncle was a spy for the British spy agency MI6, and gets swept up in finishing his uncle's mission. He must stop a bioterrorist from releasing a deadly virus upon a school of children. Can he do it in time, or will he be too late?

I really love the Alex Rider series because his adventures get more interesting and action-packed with every book. Sometimes, I wouldn't be able to put the books down for several hours because I was so engrossed in the story. With so many twists and turns, I never knew what to expect, so I just had to keep reading to find out what happened. I highly recommend this series.

The series is maybe targeted a little bit more towards younger teenagers like freshmen and sophomores, but I still think I would enjoy the books if I read them again as a junior or senior.