

**Please read at least THREE books from the list below:**

***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander.** *Sports fiction; novel in verse.* 2014. Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

***Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott.** *Classic fiction.* 1868. The four March sisters experience joys and sorrows as they grow into young women in the nineteenth century.

***I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda (with Liz Welch).** *Non-fiction, epistolary memoir.* 2015. An American girl and a boy from an impoverished city in Zimbabwe exchange letters that change both of their lives forever.

***Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson.** *Historical fiction.* 2002. In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance as she copes with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

***Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer.** *Realistic fiction.* 2005. When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Wisconsin in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved in a campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

***Hurricane Child* by Kacen Callender.** *Realistic fiction.* 2018. Twelve-year-old Caroline Murphy, self-described as “the littlest girl with the darkest skin ... in [her] whole Catholic school,” was born on a Caribbean island in the middle of a bad storm and feels cursed with bad luck. In the end, however, despite her loss of a parent and her encounters with school bullies, her resilience prevails.

***Star-Crossed* by Barbara Dee.** *Realistic fiction.* 2018. Twelve-year-old Mattie wrestles with her crush on Gemma as they participate in their school production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

***Traveler* by L.E. DeLano.** *Science Fiction.* 2017. A girl named Jessa meets a strange boy who tells her something that changes how she sees everything.

***The Only Road* by Alexandra Diaz.** *Realistic fiction.* 2016. Twelve-year-old Jaime makes the treacherous and life-changing journey from his home in Guatemala to live with his older brother in the United States.

***Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper.** *Realistic fiction.* 2010. Considered by many to be intellectually disabled, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

***Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine.** *Realistic fiction.* 2011. At school, ten-year-old Caitlin struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school; at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

***How We Roll* by Natasha Friend.** *Realistic fiction.* 2018. Quinn and Jake, teens facing trauma and identity issues, meet and find the confidence to believe in themselves again, and maybe even love.

***The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman.** *Fantasy.* 2008. After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own.

***Lily and Dunkin* by Donna Gephart.** *Realistic fiction.* 2016. A dual narrative about two remarkable young people: Lily, a transgender girl, and Dunkin, a boy dealing with bipolar disorder.

***Prisoner B-3087* by Alan Gatz** *Historical fiction.* 2013. Forced from one concentration camp to another as World War II rages around him, Yanek encounters evil he could never have imagined—and yet finds surprising glimpses of hope amid the horror.

***Flush* by Carl Hiaasen.** *Adventure fiction. 2005.* Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

***The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani.** *Fiction. 2018.* This novel, which takes place in 1947 India during partition, is told through the letters of Nisha, a twelve-year-old Hindu girl, to her Muslim mother who died in child-birth.

***Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston.** *Non-fiction, memoir. 1973.* The true account of Jeanne Wakatsuki, who was sent at the age of seven with her family and many other Japanese-Americans to the Manzanar internment camp in California.

***The Star of Kazan* by Eva Ibbotson.** *Historical fiction. 2004.* After twelve-year-old Annika, an orphan in late-1800s Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, a woman claiming to be her mother arrives and takes her to live in a mysterious mansion.

***Mascot* by Antony John.** *Realistic fiction. 2018.* 12-year-old Noah struggles to come to terms with life in a wheelchair after surviving the car accident that killed his father.

***Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan.** *Realistic fiction. 2017.* Now that Amina's in middle school, her friend is suddenly hanging out with one of the "cool" girls, and is even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Where does Amina fit?

***A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin.** *Fantasy. 1968.* The tumultuous tale of how the restless youth Sparrowhawk survives many challenges to grow into Ged, the greatest wizard in Earthsea.

***Where The Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin.** *Fantasy. 2009.* A Chinese girl named Minli sets off on a quest to bring good fortune to her family by finding the "Old Man In The Moon."

***Confessions of a Closet Catholic* by Sarah Darer Littman.** *Realistic fiction. 2006.* To be more like her best friend, eleven-year-old Justine decides to give up Judaism to try being Catholic for a while.

***Legend* by Marie Lu.** *Science fiction, dystopia. 2011.* On the flooded coast of former Los Angeles, two fifteen year-olds from wildly different sectors of the Republic learn the sinister lengths that their country will go to in order to keep its secrets.

***Million-Dollar Throw* by Mike Lupica.** *Sports fiction. 2009.* When eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family feels economic strain and his best friend Abby is going blind, he gets a chance to win a million dollars by completing a single pass.

***Good Night, Mr. Tom* by Michelle Magorian.** *Historical fiction. 1986.* A battered child learns to embrace life when he is adopted by an old man in the English countryside during World War II.

***Hurricane Season* by Nicole Melleby.** *Realistic fiction. 2019.* This novel—about taking risks and facing danger, about friendship and art, and about growing up and coming out—is more than anything else, a story about love—both its limits and its incredible healing power.

***One Bird* by Kyoko Mori.** *Realistic fiction. 1996.* Just when she feels that no one cares, fifteen-year-old Megumi meets veterinarian Dr. Mizutani, who offers Megumi a part-time job in her veterinary office helping her heal sick birds.

***The Best at It* by Maulik Pancholy.** *Realistic fiction. 2019.* An Indian American boy struggles with his sexuality and mental health while finding a place for himself in seventh grade.

***The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Perez.** *Realistic fiction. 2017.* In this classic tale of friendship, identity, and punk rock, 12-year-old Malu learns to navigate Posega Middle School by staying true to herself.

***Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan.** *Historical Fiction* 2015. Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy that, decades later, catches three contemporary children in its thread.

***The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt.** *Historical fiction.* 2007. When all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood must stay in Mrs. Baker's classroom and read the plays of Shakespeare.

***The Schwa Was Here* by Neal Shusterman.** *Adventure fiction.* 2004. A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone.

***Shooting Kabul* by N. H. Senzai.** *Adventure fiction.* 2010. After escaping to the San Francisco Bay Area from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in the summer of 2001, eleven-year-old Fadi schemes to return for his little sister who was accidentally left behind.

***Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal –The World’s Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinkin.** *Nonfiction, history.* 2012. Examines the history of the atomic bomb and its impact on societies around the world.

***Dry* by Neal Shusterman.** *Science fiction.* 2018. When the California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teen is forced to make life and death decisions for her family.

***Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman’s Quest to Make a Difference* by Warren St. John.** *Non-fiction, sports.* 2009. Based on an adult bestseller, this young readers' edition is a complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh.

***The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart.** *Mystery.* 2007. Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a search for the missing Mr. Benedict.

***Dear Martin* by Nic Stone.** *Realistic fiction.* 2017. Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs.

***The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman.** *Realistic fiction.* 2019. Four determined homeless children make a life for themselves in Chennai, India’s teeming streets.

***The Prince and the Dressmaker* by Jen Wang.** *Graphic novel.* 2018. In this fairy tale romance that explores identity and art, cross-dressing Prince Sebastian falls in love with his Paris dressmaker, Frances.

***Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia D. Williams.** *Realistic fiction.* 2019. Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as she is.

***Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson** *Realistic fiction.* 2018. Six kids discover the power of sharing their secrets and their stories in a special classroom without teachers.

***The Epic Crush of Genie Lo* by F. C. Yee.** *Fantasy.* 2018. A tough, self-disciplined Chinese-American teen deals with the supernatural derailing of her college-prep activities in this novel that draws on the folklore of the Chinese Monkey King.

**Each student must read THREE books from the list below:**

***Feed* by M.T. Anderson.** *Science fiction.* 2004. In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble.

***A Girl Like That* by Tanaz Bhathena.** *Realistic fiction.* 2018. In Saudi Arabia, sixteen-year-old half-Hindu/half-Parsi Zarin, class troublemaker and rule-breaker, desperately wants to escape her aunt and uncle's house. Porus, a new friend, could help.

***Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Beals.** *Nonfiction; history.* 1994. Beals, a member of the Little Rock Nine, chronicles her harrowing junior year at Central High where she underwent segregationists' brutal organized campaign of terrorism. True story.

***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley.** *Mystery.* 2009. Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, must exonerate her father of murder; her investigation will lead her all the way to the King of England.

***New Boy* by Tracy Chevalier.** *Historical fiction.* 2005. Chevalier recreates the Tragedy of Othello on a Washington 6th grade schoolyard in the 1970s when a black boy, new to the school, develops a friendship with the most popular white girl in school.

***Jess, Chunk, and the Road Trip to Infinity* by Kristin Elizabeth Clark.** *Realistic fiction.* 2016. Last time Jess saw her dad, she was a boy. Now she's on a road trip with her friend Chunk to address some unfinished business with her father.

***Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher.** *Sports fiction.* 2001. Follows a group of misfits, the Cutter All Night Mermen, as they struggle to find their places in a school that has no place for them.

***The Palace of Illusions* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.** *Historical fiction.* 2008. A reimagining of the world-famous Indian epic, the Mahabharata, and relevant to today's war-torn world, this novel is half history, half myth, and wholly magical.

***The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer.** *Science fiction.* 2004. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the one-hundred-forty-two-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire.

***Blood Red Horse* by K. M. Grant.** *Historical fiction.* 2006. Will has a small chestnut stallion with a white blaze in his brow. Ellie, a fair maiden, is supposed to marry Will's older brother. And King Richard is calling for a Crusade to the Holy Land.

***Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse.** *Historical fiction.* 2016. In 1943 Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, teenage Hanneke—a 'finder' of black-market goods—is tasked with finding a Jewish girl a customer had been hiding, who has seemingly vanished.

***Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-li Jiang.** *Nonfiction, memoir.* 1997. Twelve-year-old Ji-li Jiang has a bright future. Then Mao Zedong launches China's Cultural Revolution. When Ji-li's family is accused of capitalist crimes, all of her beautiful dreams burst.

***Technically, You Started It* by Lana Wood Johnson.** *Realistic Fiction.* 2019. A hilarious, witty novel structured as an on-going series of text messages about love, friendship, sexual orientation, and mental health.

***Obasan* by Joy Kogawa.** *Historical fiction.* 1994. This semi-autobiographical, award-winning novel tells the story of the evacuation, relocation, and dispersal of Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry during the Second World War.

***Shackleton's Stowaway* by Victoria McKernan.** *Adventure fiction.* 2005. A fictionalized account of the adventures of eighteen-year-old Perce Blackborow, who stowed away on the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition.

***The Apothecary* by Maile Meloy.** *Fantasy.* 2011. When a friend's father is kidnapped, 14-year-old Janie must uncover the secrets of the apothecary's sacred book, the *Pharmacopoeia*, and keep it out of the hands of Russian spies in 1950s London.

***Monster* by Walter Dean Myers.** *Realistic fiction.* 2008. While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script.

***The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa.** *Realistic fiction.* 2009. A housekeeper and her son create a quasi-family unit with the elderly mathematics professor whose house she cleans. He has no long-term memory and connects with people through baseball and numbers.

***Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor.** *Fantasy.* 2011. In Nigeria, Sunny Nwazue navigates her new path after learning that she has magical powers and has been recruited to fight an evil spirit.

***Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel.** *Science fiction/Fantasy.* 2004. Matt, a cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living aloft.

***Tash Hearts Tolstoy* by Kathryn Ormsbee.** *Realistic fiction.* 2017. After a shoutout from one of the Internet's superstar vloggers, Tash Zelenka suddenly finds herself and her obscure, amateur web series, *Unhappy Families*, thrust in viral limelight.

***The Chosen* by Chaim Potok.** *Classic fiction.* 1967. Classic story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share, Judaism, in the way that is best suited to each.

***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: Remix* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X Kendi.** *Non-fiction.* 2020. An exploration of racism and antiracism in America, "remixed" for young adults.

***Jackaby* by William Ritter.** *Fantasy.* 2014. Newly arrived in 1892 New England, Abigail Rook becomes assistant to R. F. Jackaby, an investigator of the unexplained with the ability to see supernatural beings.

***My Brother's Shadow* by Monika Schröder.** *Adventure fiction.* 2011. In 1918 Berlin, sixteen-year-old Moritz struggles to do what is right in his relationships with his job, with his socialist mother and sister, and with his WWI veteran brother.

***Girl in Reverse* by Barbara Stuber.** *Historical fiction.* 2014. Lillian Firestone is Chinese, but the kids in her 1951 Kansas City high school can't separate her from the North Koreans that America is at war with. Frustrated, Lily searches for her birth mother.

***Lucky Child* by Loung Ung.** *Nonfiction: memoir.* 2005. (Note: Text includes graphic violence). Ten-year-old Loung Ung was the "lucky child," chosen to accompany her eldest brother to America while her sister and brothers remained behind in Cambodia under the violent regime of the Khmer Rouge. In alternating chapters, she gives voice to Chou, the beloved older sister.

***Piecing Me Together* by Renée Watson.** *Realistic fiction.* 2017. Jade, one of the few black girls at her private school, is singled out for a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. But Jade doesn't feel she's "at-risk" at all; in fact, she may have a lot to teach.

***The Extraordinary and Unusual Adventures of Horatio Lyle* by Catherine Webb.** *Mystery.* 2007. With a passion for science and invention, Horatio Lyle teams up with a reformed pickpocket and a rebellious young gentleman to investigate a conspiracy.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.** *Historical fiction.* 2006. The character Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and storytelling help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

**Each student must read THREE books from the list below:**

***The Lines We Cross* by Randa Abdel-Fattah. Realistic fiction. 2017.** In Australia, Michael's parents lead an anti-immigrant movement whilst Mina's family are Afghani immigrants. The pair's mutual attraction raises problems of family and identity.

***Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson. Realistic fiction. 2009.** A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school, a year that brings her great struggle and, ultimately, growth.

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. Nonfiction; memoir; classic. 1969.** Angelou chronicles her childhood in 1930s rural Arkansas, including trauma she endured and the strength she gained from her grandmother and other elders.

***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah. Nonfiction; memoir. 2007.** In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them.

***Going Bovine* by Libba Bray. Fantasy fiction. 2009.** Cameron Smith, a disaffected sixteen-year-old, is diagnosed with "mad cow" disease and sets off on a road trip with a video gaming dwarf and a yard gnome in hopes of finding a cure.

***The Jade Peony* by Wayson Choy. Historical fiction. 1998.** In pre-WWII Vancouver, Liang, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, befriends a retired railroader who encourages her to tap dance, while her brothers also discover their identities.

***My Losing Season* by Pat Conroy. Nonfiction; memoir. 2002.** The author reflects on his days at a South Carolina military college. He recalls his love of basketball and its value to him as a means of self-expression.

***The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas. Adventure fiction; classic. 1844.** Edmond Dantes, a young sailor who is falsely imprisoned, escapes and assumes a new identity on the island of Monte Cristo.

***The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank. Nonfiction; memoir; classic. 1945.** The journal of a Jewish girl describes the joys and torments of daily life through two years spent in hiding with her family during the Nazi occupation of Holland.

***The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman. Fantasy fiction. 2013.** When a middle-aged man returns to his childhood home in Sussex, England, for a funeral, he remembers eerie childhood events relating to the neighbor girl who promised to protect him.

***A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines. Historical Fiction. 1994.** This novel explores the unlikely friendship and respect that arises between two African American men, one a teacher and the other an inmate on death row.

***Symptoms of Being Human* by Jeff Garvin. Realistic fiction. 2016.** Riley is a genderfluid teen who, at the suggestion of their therapist, begins an anonymous blog about their trans experiences and frustrations. When their blog goes viral, Riley begins to attract attention--both good and bad. (Content warnings for online/offline bullying and homophobic/transphobic slurs.)

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. Realistic fiction. 2003.** Christopher, a mathematically gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secrets about his mother.

***My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins & Fenway Park* by Steve Kluger. Realistic fiction. 2008.** Told in alternating perspectives, this is the humorous and touching story of ninth-grade best friends T.C. and Augie's most excellent year of friendship and discovery.

***Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer. Nonfiction, memoir. 1997.** A definitive account of the deadliest season in the history of Mount Everest; a step by step journey from Kathmandu to the mountain's deadly summit.

***Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok.** *Realistic fiction.* 2010. Follows the life of a girl and her mother who emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn.

***Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer* by Alberto Ledesma.** *Graphic nonfiction memoir.* 2017. A heartfelt, humorous, realistic first-person account of life as an undocumented immigrant in an American city.

***March Books II and III* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell.** *Graphic nonfiction memoir.* 2015. A graphic novel of John Lewis' first-person experiences in the civil rights movement. A continuation of *March Book I*.

***We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart.** *Mystery fiction.* 2014. Summering on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.

***How it Went Down* by Kekla Magoon.** *Realistic Fiction.* 2015. This book focuses on the aftermath of the shooting death of a black teenage boy. The author assumes 18 different perspectives within the community, exploring the ramifications of racism and violence.

***Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen* by Christopher McDougall.** *Nonfiction; sports.* 2009. An outsider who befriends the Tarahumara Indians, leading to a running event between the tribesmen and American athletes, including an ultramarathoner, a surfer, and others.

***The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness* by Sy Montgomery.** *Nonfiction.* 2015. National Book Award Finalist. Naturalist Montgomery joyously recounts her adventures with octopuses and their wonders.

***Run* by Ann Patchett.** *Realistic fiction.* 2007. Set over a period of twenty-four hours and in various locations across Boston, *Run* explores the lives of a complex family and the lengths parents will go to keep their children safe.

***My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok.** *Classic fiction.* 1972. When his uncle dies, orthodox Jew Asher Lev, a loner with artistic aspirations, must return to his native Brooklyn, where his art causes conflicts with his family and community.

***Dodger* by Terry Pratchett.** *Adventure fiction.* 2002. In an alternative version of Victorian London, a seventeen-year-old Dodger, a cunning and cheeky street urchin, rises in life when he saves a mysterious girl, meets Charles Dickens, and foils Sweeney Todd.

***Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds** *Realistic fiction, novel in verse.* 2017. Determined to avenge his 19-year-old brother's death, 15-year-old Will wants to kill the person he's certain is the murderer, but it's a long way down in the elevator.

***X: A Novel* by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon.** *Historical fiction.* 2015. Recounts the childhood of civil rights leader Malcolm X to his imprisonment at age twenty, when he found the faith that would lead him towards activism and justice.

***Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz.** *Realistic fiction.* 2014. Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. The two of them begin a friendship that lasts a lifetime. A story of coming of age and coming out.

***Betsey Brown: A Novel* by Ntozake Shange.** *Historical fiction.* 1985. Betsey is an African American seventh-grader growing up in St. Louis. This novel is based closely on the history of the school desegregation and civil rights movements in America.

***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith.** *Classic fiction.* 1943. A novel based in part on the author's life, this book charts the coming-of-age of Francie in a hardscrabble part of Brooklyn where Francie struggles and grows.

***The Scorpio Races* by Maggie Stiefvater.** *Fantasy fiction.* 2011. Nineteen-year-old returning champion Sean Kendrick competes against Puck Connolly, the first girl ever to ride in the annual Scorpio Races.

***The Age of Miracles: A Novel* by Karen Thompson Walker.** *Science fiction.* 2012. Earth's rotation has suddenly begun to slow, posing a catastrophic threat to all life. How is young Julia supposed to know how to grow up facing such a harsh reality?

***Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein.** *Historical fiction.* 2012. In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage.



**SHARED READING (for World Civ II): all students must read *1984* by George Orwell.** *Science fiction. 1948.* Winston Smith, a worker at the Ministry of Truth in the future political entity of Oceania, puts his life on the line when he joins a covert brotherhood in rebelling against the Party that controls all human thought and action.

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**In addition to *1984*, each student must read TWO books from the list below:**

***Maya's Notebook* by Isabel Allende.** *Realistic fiction. 2013.* After a recent loss, Maya escapes her downward spiral of drugs, alcohol, and petty crime to a remote Chilean island where she unravels the mysteries of her family and her life.

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.** *Science fiction; dystopian. 1985.* In what was once the United States, now called the Republic of Gilead, the ruling class reacts to social unrest and a declining birth rate with extremely repressive policies.

***Emma* by Jane Austen.** *Classic fiction; humor. 1815.* In the provincial world of Highbury, Emma Woodhouse plays matchmaker, sometimes with unintended consequences.

***Spy Princess: The Life of Noir Inayat Khan* by Shrabani Basu.** *Nonfiction; biography. 2006.* Khan, code named "Madeleine," the first woman wireless transmitter in WWII, was trained by Britain's SOE and assumed the most dangerous resistance post in underground Paris.

***The Little Girls* by Elizabeth Bowen.** *Classic Fiction; adventure. 1964.* In 1914, three eleven-year-old girls buried a box in a thicket on the coast of England shortly before World War I sent their lives on divergent paths. Nearly fifty years later, their paths cross again.

***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte.** *Classic fiction. 1847.* Jane, a plain and penniless orphan in nineteenth-century England, accepts employment as a governess and soon finds herself in love with her melancholy employer, a man with a terrible secret. (Note: those who read *Jane Eyre* could consider reading its modern heir, *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys afterwards; see below.)

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte.** *Classic fiction. 1848.* The passionate love story of stubborn Cathy and wild-as-the-wind Heathcliff in the rugged land of the Yorkshire moors has been a favorite since its publication.

***Possession* by A.S. Byatt.** *Historical fiction; mystery/thriller. 1990.* Booker Prize winner. Interweaves two stories: in one, two scholars of opposing viewpoints discover a potential affair between two Victorian poets, one a married man and the other famously in a committed lesbian relationship. In the other story, we meet the poets themselves and learn the beautiful truth.

***Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* by Becky Chambers.** *Science fiction. 2014.* Follow a motley crew on an exciting journey through space--and one adventurous young explorer who discovers the meaning of family in the far reaches of the universe--in this light-hearted space opera that explores family, gender, and morality.

***The Night Tiger* by Yangtze Choo.** *Historical fiction; fantasy; mystery. 2020.* The fates of a dance hall girl and an orphan boy entangle over an old Chinese superstition about men who turn into tigers.

***Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell* by Susanna Clarke.** *Fantasy fiction. 2010.* In 1806, most people believed magic to be dead in England--until the reclusive Mr. Norrell reveals his powers and another magician emerges: the young, daring Jonathan Strange.

***Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe.** *Classic fiction; adventure. 1719.* An Englishman becomes the sole survivor of a shipwreck and lives for nearly thirty years on a deserted island.

***A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens.** *Classic fiction. 1859.* "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." Thus begins the tale of Sydney Carton, a disreputable lawyer, and his involvement in the French Revolution.

***Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow.** *Science fiction. 2008.* In San Francisco, having been interrogated for days by officials of a police state that has emerged after a terrorist attack, seventeen-year-old Marcus decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

***Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier.** *Classic fiction; suspense. 1938.* The second Mrs. de Winter narrates the haunting events surrounding her marriage to Maxim de Winter and her growing obsession with his mysterious first wife, the beautiful, now dead Rebecca.

***The Vanishing Act of Esmé Lennox* by Maggie O'Farrell.** *Historical fiction. 2008.* Esmé, a girl sent to an asylum at the age of 16, is forgotten by her family—until the asylum is shuttered and someone must take care of her.

***The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde.** *Fantasy fiction; humor. 2001.* Thursday Next works in Literary Detection in a surreal version of Great Britain, circa 1985, where time travel and cloning are commonplace.

***A Room With A View* by E.M. Forster.** *Classic fiction. 1908.* A charming young English woman is at war with the snobbery of her own class and with her conflicting desires when she finds herself attracted to someone deemed unsuitable for her.

***Maurice* by E. M. Forster.** *Classic fiction. 1913/1932/1960.* A tale of love between men in early 20th-century England, it follows Maurice Hall from his school days through university and beyond. It was written in 1913–1914, then revised in 1932 and 1959–1960.

***My Brilliant Career* by Miles Franklin.** *Classic fiction. 1980.* A semi-autobiographical novel of a hot-tempered girl growing up in Australia around 1900, who aspires to become a person of note despite the prejudices against women at that time.

***Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett.** *Fantasy fiction; humor. 1996.* The world will come to an end next Saturday. Except: a fast-living demon and a fussy angel have grown fond of Earth's mortals and decide to try to stop the Apocalypse.

***Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons.** *Historical fiction; humor. 1932.* Flora Poste finds herself in a gloomy, overwrought world and proceeds to organize everyone out of their romantic tragedies and into the pleasures of modern life in the 1930s.

***These Violent Delights* by Chloe Gong.** *Fantasy fiction. 2020.* Shanghai *Romeo and Juliet* retelling with Chinese gangs.

***Our Man in Havana* by Graham Greene.** *Classic fiction; adventure. 1958.* A vacuum cleaner salesman who is short of money accepts an assignment as an M16 agent in Havana, where soon his faked intelligence reports start coming true.

***A Certain Justice* by P.D. James.** *Mystery fiction. 1997.* A lawyer is murdered soon after successfully defending her client who was on trial for murder. An investigator learns the client recently became engaged to the lawyer's daughter. Is there a connection?

***Unmarriageable* by Soniah Kamal.** *Realistic fiction. 2019.* Set in modern day Pakistan, Alys Binat has sworn never to marry—until an encounter with one Mr. Darsee at a wedding makes her reconsider. A modern retelling of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

***Small Island* by Andrea Levy.** *Realistic fiction. 2005.* Hortense Joseph arrives in London from Jamaica in 1948 hoping to start a new life with her husband, but they find themselves struggling to fit into the strange culture of their foreign “motherland.”

***Master of Thin Air: Life and Death on the World's Highest Peaks* by Andrew Lock.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 2014.* Opens with a fall down an almost vertical rock ramp and recounts Lock's sixteen-year journey to summit all of the world's eight-thousanders.

***Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel.** *Science fiction.* 2014. In a pandemic-ravaged society, actress Kirsten Raymonde travels with a troupe performing Shakespeare and finds herself in a community in which a prophet will not let anyone leave alive.

***Enduring Love* by Ian McEwan.** *Classic fiction.* 1997. After a chance meeting, Jed Perry begins to stalk author Joe Rose. Driven by religious zeal and misdirected love, the strange young man will slowly unravel each strand of Joe's life.

***Black Swan Green* by David Mitchell.** *Historical fiction.* 2006. Tracks a single year in the life of thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor in a Worcestershire village in 1982 as the Cold War is coming near an end in England.

***V for Vendetta* by Alan Moore.** *Graphic novel.* 1990. A classic of the genre, set in an imagined future England that has given itself over to fascism.

***Gods of Jade and Shadow* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia.** *Fantasy fiction.* 2019. The Mayan god of death sends a young woman on a harrowing, life-changing journey in this one-of-a-kind fairy tale inspired by Mexican folklore.

***The Cat's Table* by Michael Ondaatje.** *Historical fiction.* 2011. Michael, now an adult, recalls the three-week long sea voyage he took as a boy in the early 1950s. During the trip across the Indian Ocean the boy meets a variety of characters on board.

***White is for Witching* by Helen Oyeyemi.** *Mystery fiction.* 2014. Sixteen-year-old Miranda struggles against the menacing haunted house she inhabits and a rare eating disease that causes her to eat non-edible substances.

***My Name is Red* by Orhan Pamuk.** *Historical fiction.* 2002. A fiendishly devious mystery set amid the splendor and religious intrigue of sixteenth-century Istanbul by a celebrated contemporary Turkish novelist.

***Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.** *Classic fiction.* 1948. A Zulu pastor and his son's struggles under white rule in South Africa.

***Tamar: A Novel of Espionage, Passion, and Betrayal* by Mal Peet.** *Historical Fiction.* 2010. When her grandfather dies, Tamar inherits a box of coded messages. Out of the past comes another Tamar, a resistance fighter from Nazi-occupied Holland.

***Nation* by Terry Pratchett.** *Fantasy fiction; alternate history.* 2008. After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, set about rebuilding their community.

***Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys.** *Classic fiction; adventure.* 1966. Postcolonial novel centered upon Bertha, the Jamaican madwoman in the attic in Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, to which this novel could make an interesting follow-up read.

***East, West* by Salman Rushdie.** *Historical fiction; short stories.* 1995. Nine stories that reveal the oceanic distances and the unexpected intimacies between East and West.

***Sugar in the Blood: A Family's Story of Slavery and Empire* by Andrea Stuart.** *Nonfiction; history.* 2013. Stuart uses her own family's Caribbean story as the pivot for this epic tale of migration, colonialism, slavery, settlement, and survival.

***Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift.** *Classic fiction; adventure; satire; classic.* 1726. A classic satire that recounts four remarkable journeys of a ship's surgeon, Lemuel Gulliver, including one stay in a land of six-inch-high people and another in a land of giants.

***The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde.** *Classic fiction.* 1891. A handsome, dissolute man who sells his soul for eternal youth is horrified to see the reflection of his degeneration in the distorted features of his portrait.

***The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the English Dictionary*** by Simon Winchester. *Nonfiction; history. 2009.* The Oxford English Dictionary took seventy years to complete, drawing from tens of thousands of brilliant minds. Hidden within the rituals of the OED's creation is a fascinating and mysterious story of two of them.

**\*Each student must read THREE books from the list below:**

***Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Realistic fiction. 2013.** Explores in savvy, blunt, and often humorous fashion concepts of culture, race, love, and gender in the struggles and triumphs of Nigerian immigrants in America and England.

***Before and After* by Rosellen Brown. Mystery. 1992.** When the chief of police comes looking for Jacob one evening to question him about the bludgeoning to death of his teenage girlfriend, the lives of the Reiser family are changed forever.

***In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote. Nonfiction; journalism. 1966.** An account of the murders of the four members of the Clutter family in Holcomb, Kansas, in 1959 by two drifters who fled to Mexico and were later arrested and executed for their crimes.

***The Moonflower Vine* by Jetta Carleton. Realistic fiction. 2009.** Missouri author. On a farm in western Missouri during the first half of the twentieth century, Matthew and Callie Soames create a life for themselves and raise four headstrong daughters.

***Donald Duk* by Frank Chin. Realistic fiction. 1991.** Donald, the 12-year-old son of a Chinatown chef in San Francisco, hates his name (he isn't a cartoon character); he loves tap dancing; and he struggles to feel comfortable with being Chinese.

***The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant. Historical fiction. 2015.** A story of the twentieth century through the life of one woman, Addie Baum, born in 1900 to immigrant parents who are suspicious of America and its effect on their three daughters.

***All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. Historical fiction. 2014.** A blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France try to survive the devastation of World War II.

***Wit: A Play* by Margaret Edson. Drama. 1999.** Vivian Bearing, a renowned English professor who has spent years studying and teaching poetry, takes an intellectual approach to her terminal cancer diagnosis for as long as she can.

***The Round House* by Louise Erdrich. Adventure fiction. 2012.** When his mother slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, Joe Coutts, an Ojibwe teenager, sets out with his three friends to find the person that injured his family.

***Herland* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Classic; adventure. 1915.** Three male explorers discover an advanced, all-female society in South America and have trouble understanding how it can work so well without men.

***In the Heart of the Heart of the Country and Other Stories* by William Gass. Realistic fiction. 1965.** Two novellas and three short stories, set in the Midwest, exhibiting Gass's characteristic and wildly original verbal brilliance and philosophical acuity.

***Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson. Realistic fiction; courtroom. 1995.** In 1954, in an island community north of Puget Sound, a local fisherman is found suspiciously drowned and a Japanese American citizen is charged with his murder.

***The Last Child* by John Hart. Mystery. 2009.** After his twin sister disappears, thirteen-year-old Johnny Merrimon is determined to find her. When a second girl disappears from his rural North Carolina town, Johnny makes a shocking discovery.

***Catch-22* by Joseph Heller. Classic; satire. 1955.** Set in the closing months of World War II, *Catch-22* is the story of a bombardier named Yossarian who is frantic and furious because thousands of people he hasn't even met keep trying to kill him.

***For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway. Classic; war. 1940.** The Spanish Civil War is in full swing when one man's sense of duty confronts another's self-interest and weariness.

***And We Stay* by Jenny Hubbard. Realistic fiction. 2014.** Sent to an Amherst, Massachusetts, boarding school after her ex-boyfriend's death, seventeen-year-old Emily expresses herself through poetry, copes with her guilt, and begins to heal.

***The Crazy* by Ha Jin.** *Realistic fiction.* 2004. When an eminent professor has a stroke in Communist China and begins to rave unconsciously in the hospital, a graduate student enlisted to sit with him must separate truth from fantasy in his wild “confessions.”

***Savage Inequalities: Children in America’s Schools* by Jonathan Kozol.** *Nonfiction; journalism.* 1991. An account of the author’s visits to schools in over 30 neighborhoods, including East St. Louis, Harlem, and Chicago, and the inequities he found.

***We Are Okay* by Nina LaCour.** *Realistic fiction.* 2017. Printz Award winner. The summer before college was filled with change for Marin--a changing relationship with her best friend, Mabel, and then a sudden bereavement. When Mabel flies coast-to-coast to visit Marin, the two must face the past together and try to move past it.

***Dead Wake* by Erik Larson.** *Non-fiction.* 2016. Grippingly describes the sinking of the *Lusitania* and captures the sheer drama and emotional power of a disaster whose intimate details and true meaning have long been obscured by history.

***All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy.** *Western.* 1992. Presents a cowboy odyssey for modern times and features the travels and toils of a 16 year old East Texan boy. The first volume of the author's Border trilogy.

***Charming Billy* by Alice McDermott.** *Realistic fiction.* 1998. A young woman, cousin to the late Billy Lynch who has just died of alcoholism, traces the story of his lost love, discovering her own father's role in trying to keep the truth from Billy.

***A Good Man is Hard to Find and Other Stories* by Flannery O'Connor.** *Realistic fiction.* 1953. A ten-story collection of O'Connor’s startling and strange characters and plots that populate her country home near Milledgeville, Georgia, in the early 20th century.

***Playing With Fire: The 1968 Election and the Transformation of American Politics* by Lawrence O'Donnell.** *Nonfiction; politics.* 2017. Assassinations, riots, old political machines, war resistance, and shifting loyalties: The 1968 election contained the essence of what makes America different, and how we got to where we are now.

***Coal Black Horse* by Robert Olmstead.** *Adventure.* 2007. In the midst of the Civil War, Robey Child's mother sends him to the battlefield to find his father, and the fourteen-year-old is forced to become a man amidst the horrors of war.

***The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. Le Guin.** *Science fiction.* 1969. In a fictional universe, Genly Ai serves as an envoy to a distant planet where his struggle to understand the culture and ambisexuality of the world places him in grave danger.

***The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* by Michael Pollan.** *Nonfiction; journalism.* 2006. An ecological and anthropological study of eating offers insight into food production and consumption in the twenty-first century.

***Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser.** *Nonfiction; journalism.* 2001. The book inspires readers to look beneath the surface of our food system, consider its impact on society and, most of all, think for themselves.

***Hyperion* by Dan Simmons.** *Science fiction.* 1989. Twenty-ninth century, intergalactic pilgrims travel to the mysterious and powerful Shrike sect on the far world of Hyperion and by sharing their separate tales try to understand the reason for their potentially deadly journey.

***The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair.** *Nonfiction; journalism.* 1906. Sinclair worked undercover in the meatpacking Chicago stockyards to describe in true detail the horrific conditions among workers and the food they produced.

***Men Explain Things to Me* by Rebecca Solnit.** *Nonfiction; social commentary.* 2014. Solnit humorously explores communication between men who wrongly assume they know things and/or wrongly assume women don't.

***Maus I and Maus II* by Art Spiegelman.** *Graphic novels. 1997.* A memoir about a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe and about his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself.

***Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir* by Natasha Trethewey.** *Nonfiction. 2020.* A chillingly personal and exquisitely wrought memoir of a daughter reckoning with the brutal murder of her mother at the hands of her former stepfather, and the moving, intimate story of a poet coming into her own in the wake of tragedy.

***Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut.** *Science fiction. 1966.* The story of Billy Pilgrim who has come unstuck in time and jumps back and forth from life on a distant planet to the horrors of the 1945 fire-bombing of Dresden.

***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker.** *Realistic fiction. 1983.* Celie is a poor black woman in the South whose letters tell the story of 20 years of her life, from her endurance of abuse beginning at age 14 to her growth toward independence, creativity, and love.

***All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren.** *Realistic fiction. 1946.* *All the King's Men* traces the rise and fall of demagogue Willie Stark, a fictional character loosely based on Governor Huey "Kingfish" Long of Louisiana.

***Black Boy* by Richard Wright.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 1945.* Wright's unforgettable autobiography of growing up in the Jim Crow South offers an unsurpassed portrait of the struggles against the ingrained racism and poverty faced by African Americans.

Please bring copies of ALL THREE of your summer reading books at the start of the term and be prepared to work with them in class.

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**Book 1) OPEN CHOICE READING:** Read a full-length book of your choice.

**Books 2-3) CURATED CHOICE READING:** Choose 2 books from the following list.

*Desert Solitaire* by Ed Abbey. *Nonfiction; memoir. 1968.* Abbey's story of his three seasons in the desert at Moab, Utah is a fascinating, sometimes raucous account of a place that has already disappeared but is worth remembering.

*Eva Luna* by Isabel Allende. *Realistic fiction. 1987.* From nuns to sex workers, poor revolutionaries to gifted transgender artists, Muslim immigrants to privileged elites, orphaned Eva creates families around her--and learns to love--by telling magical stories.

*Bastard Out of Carolina* by Dorothy Allison. *Realistic fiction. 1992.* With this novel, Allison, who has been likened to Harper Lee, confronts race, class, gender, sexuality, and identity in the lives of poor whites in the South.

*Going to Meet the Man* by James Baldwin. *Fiction; short stories. 1965.* By turns haunting, heartbreaking, and horrifying, these stories are informed by Baldwin's knowledge of the wounds racism has left in both its victims and its perpetrators.

*Visit Sunny Chernobyl: And Other Adventures in the World's Most Polluted Places* by Andrew Blackwell. *Nonfiction; journalism. 2012.* Andrew Blackwell describes his travels to the most polluted places in the world.

*Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. *Nonfiction. 1962.* One of the most influential books of the 20th Century and a cornerstone of the environmental movement, spurring revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water.

*Colors of the Mountain* by Da Chen. *Nonfiction; memoir. 2001.* A true story of growing up during China's Cultural Revolution.

*The Hours* by Michael Cunningham. *Historical fiction; short stories. 1998.* A trio of stories inspired by the writer Virginia Woolf, whose novel *Mrs. Dalloway* is also on this list.

*David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens. *Classic fiction. 1850.* One of the most autobiographical of all the author's novels, it is a classic coming-of-age story chronicling the struggle between the emotional and moral aspects of his life.

*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky. *Classic fiction. 1866.* The poverty and hopelessness of pre-Revolutionary Russian society are tangible in this story of a student who murders two women and then tries to live with his crime.

*Finding Nouf* by Zoe Ferraris. *Mystery. 2009.* Saudi Arabian desert guide Nayir al-Sharqi is hired to find a girl. When she turns up dead, he forms an unexpected partnership with a female technician at the coroner's office to solve the case.

*Hot Comb* by Ebony Flowers. *Graphic novel, memoir. 2019.* Autobiographical stories linked by the topic of black women's hair.

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. *Magical realism; classic. 1967.* One of the most influential literary works of our time, tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad and alive with unforgettable characters.

*Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul* by Eddie Glaude, Jr. *Social Science Journalism. 2016.* A powerful call for "a revolution of value and a radical democratic awakening" aimed at ending America's persistent racial crisis.

*Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism* by Temple Grandin. *Nonfiction; memoir. 1995.* Grandin brings the dual perspectives of scientist and autistic person to this classic, groundbreaking report from "the country of autism."



***The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid.** *Realistic fiction.* 2008. One evening in an outdoor Lahore cafe, a bearded Pakistani man called Changez tells a nervous American stranger about his love affair with America.

***Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro.** *Speculative fiction.* 2020. A deft, dystopian fable about the innocence of a robot that asks big questions about existence.

***The Fifth Season* by N. K. Jemisin.** *Science fiction; Afro-futurist.* 2015. In an imagined world, a woman hides her supernatural ability to bend rocks and embarks on a quest to find her kidnapped daughter, only to find herself tempted to start a new epoch.

***Waiting* by Ha Jin.** *Historical fiction.* 2000. Lin Kong, a man living in two worlds, is struggling with the conflicting claims of two utterly different women as he moves through the political minefields of a society designed to regulate his every move.

***The Trial* by Franz Kafka.** *Classic literature.* 1925. Chilling tale of a respectable bank officer who is suddenly arrested and put on trial for a charge about which he can get no information. If you liked *1984*, this is a good choice.

***When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi.** *Nonfiction; memoir.* 2016. While training as a neurosurgeon, Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. He reflects on being a medical expert, dying patient, and new father all at the same time.

***The Geography of Nowhere* by J.H. Kunstler.** *Nonfiction; journalism.* 1994. The author traces America's evolution from a nation of Main Streets and coherent communities to a land where every place is like no place in particular.

***Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee.** *Historical fiction.* 2017. In the early 1900s, teenaged Sunja, the adored daughter of a crippled fisherman, falls for a wealthy stranger at the seashore near her home in Korea, setting off an epic tale moving from bustling street markets to the halls of Japan's finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld.

***Black Hole Blues and Other Songs from Outer Space* by Janna Levin.** *Nonfiction; science.* 2016. In 1916, Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves: sounds without a material medium generated by the collision of black holes. Levin, herself an astrophysicist, recounts the surprising and fascinating story of the search, over the last fifty years, for these elusive waves.

***The Three-Body Problem* by Cixin Liu.** *Science fiction.* 2015. Set against the backdrop of China's Cultural Revolution, a secret military project sends signals into space. A civilization on the brink of destruction captures the signal and plans to invade Earth.

***The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.** *Realistic fiction.* 1970. Morrison's bestselling first novel, telling the story of Pecola, growing up in Ohio following the Great Depression and struggling to love herself when she believes whiteness is the standard of beauty.

***In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* by Daniyal Mueenuddin.** *Fiction; short stories.* 2009. A stellar linked set of short stories--some funny, some tragic, some adventurous, some lyrical--telling lives of a single extended household in and around modern-day Lahore.

***Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi.** *Nonfiction; memoir.* 2003. Nafisi tells of two years in Iran and the study group she hosted of seven former female students who met every Thursday morning at her house to discuss forbidden Western literature.

***A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki.** *Realistic fiction.* 2013. A Hello Kitty lunchbox washes up on the shore of Vancouver Island. Inside are artifacts presenting a puzzle that when put together reveal the unexpected life of a Japanese teenager.

***The Puttermessor Papers* by Cynthia Ozick.** *Speculative fiction.* 1998. Ruth Puttermessor's learning is monumental, her love life is minimal, and her fantasies have a strange tendency to come true--with disastrous consequences for whatever "reality" is.

***Snow* by Orhan Pamuk.** *Suspense.* 2005. This political thriller follows an exiled writer who returns to Turkey to investigate a religious youth protest movement, but it ends up being about so much more.

***What I Was* by Meg Rosoff.** *Realistic fiction.* 2008. Finn was a beautiful orphan. He was a prep school misfit. They met on a beach on the coast of England where Finn lived alone in a hut. He recounts, in his old age, the story of their coming of age.

***Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie.** *Fiction; magical realism.* 1981. This iconic masterpiece portrays India's transition from British colonial rule to independence and the partition into India & Pakistan through the magical abilities of the children born alongside their country, at midnight on the day of independence.

***Safe Area Gorazde* by Joe Sacco.** *Graphic novel; nonfiction.* 2002. Sacco spent months in Bosnia in 1995-1996, immersing himself in the human side of life during wartime. The book focuses on the besieged Muslim enclave of Gorazde.

***Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain* by Oliver Sacks.** *Nonfiction, science.* 2008. Dr. Sacks, a neurologist, investigates the power of music to move, to heal and to haunt us.

***Kusamakura* by Natsume Soseki.** *Classic fiction.* 1906. The lyrical story of the encounters of an artist on a walking tour of the mountains, its author describes this classic of Japanese literature as "a haiku-style novel that lives through beauty."

***Wild* by Cheryl Strayed.** *Nonfiction, memoir.* 2012. A powerful, blazingly honest, inspiring memoir; the story of a 1,100 mile solo hike that broke down a young woman reeling from catastrophe--and built her back up again.

***Blankets* by Craig Thompson.** *Graphic novel, autobiography.* 2015. A young man comes of age and finds his artistic voice.

***A Complicated Kindness* by Miriam Toews.** *Realistic fiction.* 2004. A 16-year-old rebels against the conventions of her strict Mennonite community and struggles with the collapse of her family in this insightful, irreverent coming-of-age novel.

***The Book of Salt* by Monique Truong.** *Historical fiction.* 2003. Binh is a young, gay, Vietnamese immigrant in 1930s Paris. He is also personal chef to the legendary Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas. Their famous relationship, successful careers, and committed home contrast to and fuel his secret loves, personal losses, and hope-filled ambitions.

***Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese.** *Historical fiction.* 2009. Twin brothers Marion and Shiva Stone come of age in Ethiopia, sharing a bond that helps them survive the loss of their parents and the country's political upheaval.

***The Genius Plague* by David Walton.** *Science fiction.* 2017. What if the pandemic you thought would kill you made you more intelligent instead? In the Amazon, a disease is spreading. It grants enhanced brainpower--to those who survive.

***Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward.** *Realistic fiction.* 2017. National Book Award. Jojo struggles with his mother's addictions and his grandmother's cancer before the release of his father from prison prompts a dangerous, hopeful road trip.

***The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson.** *Drama.* 1990. Willie dreams of buying the Mississippi land his family had worked as slaves, selling their antique piano to finance his future. But his sister Berniece sees the piano as their legacy and refuses to sell.

***Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* by Jeanette Winterson.** *Nonfiction; memoir.* 2012. In this memoir, Winterson, an award-winning British novelist, recounts her challenging coming-of-age as the gay daughter of a rigid adoptive mother.

***Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf.** *Classic literature.* 1925. Considered one of the most brilliant novels of its age, the story covers one day in the life of Mrs. Dalloway, but in that one day we see many of the threads that make up her life.

***Native Son* by Richard Wright.** *Fiction. Social realism.* 1940. When a wealthy white family offers Bigger Thomas, a twenty-year-old black Chicagoan, a chauffeur's position, Bigger is torn between gratitude and resentment.