



Dear VMS Students and Parents,

Reading is a cornerstone of education and we hope to cultivate a love of books in all Vail Mountain School students. In support of this goal, each division has created a summer reading program that is age-appropriate and designed to appeal to a wide variety of interests.

Information about each division's summer reading program can be found in the attached PDF, which can also be accessed by going to the BTS 2022 page on our website. We ask that you please read over the sections relevant to your child and help support them in accomplishing the outlined goals.

Happy reading and enjoy the summer break!

Kristin Douthitt

Lower School Division Director

Trevor Adams

Middle School Division Director

Maggie Pavlik

Upper School Division Director



LOWER SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2022

Summer is right around the corner and much excitement abounds. The following book list will offer your child exposure to many different styles of writing, as well as flexibility in choosing books for a variety of interests and reading levels. We hope this offers you more breadth and depth in the selections of books for enjoyable summer reading.

It is recommended that students read approximately 20-40 minutes each day throughout the summer vacation from school. While children need time to unwind and relax, studies have shown that without summer reading, children's reading skills recede.

As parents, look for ways to incorporate reading into your child's summer vacation in a way that is fun and pleasurable. What can you do?

- Don't rule out comic books, magazines, and storybooks. Allow your child the freedom to break up his/her book reading with a shorter, easier "read."
- Help your child find a book on a subject that interests them. Sit down with your child and make a list of possible topics. Then visit the local library. Librarians are wonderful resources and can easily point out books for your child.
- Encourage your child to register for your local library's summer reading program for kids.
- Make sure that you are reading during the summer. Children need to see that reading is a lifelong activity even his/her parents enjoy. Show your children the pleasure you derive from reading by talking about the books you read.
- Get a second copy of your child's book and read along with him/her. This way you can discuss the book together. You might also take turns reading aloud to each other.
- Since reading and writing go hand and hand, encourage your child to keep a reading journal. Help your child think of topics for their entries. Your child might write a letter to the author as an entry or retell a book chapter from the perspective of a different character.
- Plan a summer trip around a book your child is reading. Historical fiction lends itself particularly well to this approach and there are plenty of places nearby to visit.
- Most importantly, schedule reading into the day. Set aside at least twenty minutes each day that your child will devote to reading, and do your best to help your child stick to the plan.
- If your child reads 200+ minutes a week, and you are inclined, go out for an ice cream cone, and spend extra time at the local library or bookstore.

2022 LOWER SCHOOL FAMILY SUMMER READ

To build community during the summertime and as we head into the new school year, the Lower School decides on a book for the entire LS community to read together. When we return in the fall, we will integrate the book's characters, themes, plot, and life lessons into activities and discussions in each classroom. The book can be read individually (for older students) or as a family read aloud. We encourage you to read and discuss the book together. These books were sent home on May 16 with the oldest student in the family. We hope you enjoy this year's pick!

“Imaginary friends are like books. We're created, we're enjoyed, we're dog-eared and creased, and then we're tucked away until we're needed again.”

— Katherine Applegate, *Crenshaw*

Crenshaw is an easy and fast read for the whole family! Its lovable characters and empathy evoking plot will capture the hearts of all ages.

Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again.

Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything?

Beloved author Katherine Applegate proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary.....enjoy!



TOP 10 SUGGESTIONS for LOWER SCHOOL SUMMER READING

Books Appropriate for Students Before Entering Kindergarten Recommended by Mrs. Blumenreich and Mrs. Szmyd

- *The Night Before Kindergarten* by Natasha Wing
- *Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes
- *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate
- *Timothy Goes to School* by Rosemary Wells
- *How Do Dinosaurs Go to School?* By Jane Yolen and Mark Teague
- *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- *Llama Llama Misses Mama* by Anna Dewdney
- *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr.
- *Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr.

Books Appropriate for Students Reading at a Kindergarten Level Recommended by Mrs. Blumenreich and Mrs. Szmyd

- *First Grade, Here I Come!* By Nancy Carlson
- *Now I'm Reading!* Series
- *If You Take a Mouse to School* by Laura Numeroff
- *The Night Before First Grade* by Natasha Wing
- *The Magic Treehouse Chapter book series* by Mary Pope Osborne
- *Piggie and Elephant series* by Mo Willems
- *Bedtime Math* by Laura Overdeck
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- *Mercy Watson Series* by Kate DiCamillo
- Recommended Authors: Kate DiCamillo, Mercer Mayer, Eric Carle, Kevin Henkes, Dr. Seuss, Leo Lionni

Books Appropriate for Students Reading at a First Grade Level Recommended by Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Adams

- *Frog and Toad series* by Arnold Lobel
- *Nate the Great series* by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
- *Henry and Mudge series* by Cynthia Rylant
- *Mr. Putter and Tabby books* by Cynthia Rylant
- *Little Critter Books* by Mercer Mayer
- *Magic Tree House series* by Mary Pope Osborne
- *Franklin series* by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark
- *Fly Guy series* by Ted Arnold
- *Poppleton series* by Cynthia Rylant
- *Hey Jack and Billie B. Brown books* by Sally Rippin
- Recommended Authors: Ted Arnold, Cynthia Rylant, Gail Gibbons, Jan Brett, Mo Williams, and Dr. Seuss

Books Appropriate for Students Reading at a Second Grade Level Recommended by Mrs. Evans

- *Mercy Watson* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Stink the Incredible Shrinking Kid* by Megan McDonald
- *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown
- *Ivy & Bean* by Annie Barrows
- *Katie Kazoo Switcheroo* by Nancy Krulik
- *Olive & Beatrix* by Amy Marie Stadelmann
- *Owl Diaries* by Rebecca Elliott
- *Secrets of Droon* by Tony Abbott
- *A to Z Mysteries* by Ron Roy
- *Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot* by Dav Pilkey

Books Appropriate for Students Reading at a Third Grade Level Recommended by Mrs. Evans

- *Who Was...? series* by Jess Brallier, Stephanie Spinner, Dennis Brindell Fradin, et al
- *The Boxcar Children Mysteries series* by Gertrude Chandler Warner
- *Geronimo Stilton series* by Geronimo Stilton
- *Roald Dahl Classics* by Roald Dahl
- *Warriors: A Vision of Shadows series* by Erin Hunter
- *39 Clues series* by Jude Watson
- *Amber Brown series* by Paula Danziger

- *Humphrey series* by Betty G. Birney
- *Goosebumps series* by R. L. Stein
- *Notebook of Doom series* by Troy Cumming

Books Appropriate for Students Reading at a Fourth Grade Level Recommended by Mrs.

Stavisky

- *Spy School (series)* by Stuart Gibbs
- *Sideways Stories From Wayside School* by Louis Sachar
- *Lunch Money* by Andrew Clements
- *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O'Brien
- *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies
- *Stuart Little* by E.B. White
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
- *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate
- *Wish* by Barbara O'Connor
- *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen

Books Appropriate for Students Reading at a Fifth Grade Level Recommended by Mrs. Stavisky

- *Restart* by Gordon Korman
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *Fish In a Tree* by Linda Mullaly Hunt
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- *The Honest Truth* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
- *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate
- *Savvy* by Ingrid Law
- *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko
- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
- *Hello Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly



MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2022

Summer vacation is for spending quality time with family and friends and enjoying less structure and routine in your lives. However, it is imperative to read as much and as often as you can. The intent of VMS's Middle School Summer Reading is to integrate books into your normal summer life in a natural and fun way that is not stressful.

Over the summer, all incoming middle school students should have an active reading life. Summer is a perfect time to develop *personal* reading interests that maintain and enrich literacy skills. You are expected to read *at least three (3) books over the summer months and track the books you read on the attached Summer Reading Log.*

Two of the three books may be of your choice. The third must be one of the following book-club selections:

- ***Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Alston**
- ***Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman**
- ***Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team* by Steve Sheinkin**
- ***Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld**
- ***When the Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson by Omar Mohamed**

Upon returning to school, you will participate in a cross-grade discussion based on the book club book you read.

In addition to reading, choose one book you would like to share with your classmates when school begins and write a one-paragraph reflection based on the attached prompt.

The *Summer Reading Log* and reflection, signed by a parent or guardian, will be your first Humanities (6th)/ English (7th and 8th) grade of 2020-2021.

Book Club Preparation

While reading your summer book club book, complete the following two activities:

1. Answer the “Book Club Prompts” and print or handwrite your responses. Your faculty book club leader will collect this work during the first week of school.
2. Book Club THEME ANALYSIS. Your Humanities/English teacher will collect this writing assignment during your first English class of the school year.

Student Name: _____

Book Club Book Name: _____

Book Club Prompts

1. Why did you choose this book?
2. What did you like about the book?
3. What did you dislike about the book?
4. What is a lesson or exciting moment you will remember from the book?
5. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?
6. Was there a place in the story or a character in the story you connected with?
7. Does this book remind you of another book you've read?
8. How does something in this book connect with something going in our community or the world?
9. What is your opinion of the main character(s)?
10. What is one question you have for the group to consider?

Book Club THEME ANALYSIS

Based on your book club reading, what theme (overall big idea) did the story address? What is the story REALLY about (falling in love, losing a loved one, discovering identity, overcoming obstacles)?

Write a paragraph (5-7 sentences) that explains the theme you choose and provide three examples from the text that represents this theme.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Please find a list of recommendations for 6th-8th grade students to read over the summer. Note that because this list is intended for all middle schoolers, some books may be more appropriate for older students vs. younger students and vice versa. Parents are encouraged to research and/or preview books if concerned about maturity.

Incoming 6th Grade

- A Single Shard Linda Sue Park
- Amina's Voice by Hena Khan
- Aru Shah and the End of Time: A Pandava by Rohani Chokshi
- Confetti Girl by Diana Lopez
- Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- Forever or a Long Long Time by Caela Carter
- Ghost by Jason Reynolds (Track Book 1)
- Ghost Boys by Jewelle Parker Rhodes
- Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly
- Listen Slowly by Thanhha Lai
- Matilda by Roald Dahl
- Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina
- Mind Games by Jeanne Grunwell
- Out of the Deep by Gloria Skurzynski
- Peter Nimble and his Fantastic Eyes by Jonathan Auxier
- Refugee by Alan Gratz
- Riding Freedom by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- Sal & Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Hernandez
- Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
- Sticks & Stones by Abby Cooper
- Stranded by Ben Mikaelson
- The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker by Cynthia DeFelice
- The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman
- The Crossover by Kwame Alexander
- The Green Ember by S.D. Smith (Book 1)
- The Last Kids on Earth by Max Brallier (Book 1)
- The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan (Book 1)
- The Lost Hero by Rick Riordan (Book 1)
- The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
- The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan (Book 1)
- The Serpent's Secret by Sayantani DasGupta
- The Wild Robot by Peter Brown (Book 1)
- Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
- Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

Incoming 7th Grade

- A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramée
- Auggie and Me by R.J. Palacio
- Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk
- Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee
- Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
- Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling (Book 1)
- Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones
- Jackie's Wild Seattle by Will Hobbs
- Life as We Knew It by Susan Pfeffer
- Mananaland by Pam Munoz Ryan
- Midnight Without a Moon by Linda Williams Jackson

- Ms. Bixby's Last Day by John David Anderson
- Ninjas, Piranhas, and Galileo by Greg Smith
- Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper
- Pax by Sara Pennypacker
- Project Mulberry by Linda Park
- Race to the Sun by Rebecac Roanhorse
- Red Scarf Girl by Ji-li Jiang
- Serafina and the Black Cloak by Robert Beatty (Book 1)
- Song for a Whale by Lynne Kelly
- Stef Soto, Taco Queen by Jennifer Torres
- The Book of Boy by Catherine Gilbert Murdock
- The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya
- The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill
- The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
- The Heart of the Samurai by Margi Preus
- The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (Book 1)
- The Inquisitor's Tale by Adam Gidwitz
- The Memory Thief by Bryce Moore
- The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier
- The Secret Keepers by Trenton Lee Stewart
- The Storm Runner by J.C. Cervantes (Book 1)
- Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalai
- Uglies by Scott Westerfeld (Book 1)

Incoming 8th Grade

- As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds
- A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness
- Becoming by Michelle Obama
- Beautiful Swimmers by William Warner
- Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
- Cinder by Marissa Meyer (Lunar Chronicles Book 1)
- Divergent by Veronica Roth (Book 1)
- Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- Fever by Laurie Anderson
- Finding Wonders by Jeannine Atkins
- First they Killed My Father by Loung Ung
- I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
- Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadhota
- Legend by Marie Lu (Book 1)
- Life of Pi by Yann Martel
- New Kid by Jerry Craft
- Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
- Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga
- Renegades by Marissa Meyer (Book 1)
- Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez
- Saving the Planet and Stuff: A Novel by Gail Gauthier
- Scythe by Neal Shusterman
- Stella by Starlight by Sharon Draper
- The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho
- The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas
- The Maze Runner by James Dashner (Book 1)
- The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart
- The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani
- The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen
- The War I finally Won by Brubaker Bradley (Book 2)

- The War that Saved My Life by Brubaker Bradley (Book 1)
- They Called Us Enemy by George Takei
- Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
- When Stars are Scattered by Omar Mohamed
- Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk

Middle Grade Classics

- A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
- Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Coldencko
- Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer (Book 1)
- Baseball in April and Other Stories by Gary Soto
- Black Beauty by Anna Sewel
- Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
- Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
- Coraline by Neil Gaiman
- Crispin: The Cross of Lead
- Dicey's Song by Cynthia Voigt
- Dragon's Gate by Laurence Yep
- Dragonwings by Laurence Yep
- Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine
- Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
- Ender's Shadow by Orson Scott Card
- Eragon by Christopher Paul Paolini
- Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers
- Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
- Heidi by Angela Johnson
- Holes by Louis Sachar
- Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt
- Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
- Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
- James and The Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
- Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes
- Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George
- Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata
- Monster by Walter Dean
- Old Yeller by Fred Gipson
- Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor
- Rumble Fish by S.E. Hinton
- The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
- The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder
- The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
- The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
- The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
- The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
- The Last Book in the Universe by Rodman Philbrick
- The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis
- The Westing Game by Ellan Raskin
- The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
- The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare
- They Cay by Thoredore Taylor
- Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls



UPPER SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2022

REQUIREMENTS

VMS hopes to inspire all of its students to love to read. To that end, we provide a structured summer reading program that will allow students to enjoy a variety of books based on personal choice, grade level preparation, and Upper School divisional expectations. Any or all of these books can be read either in book, electronic, or audio format. Please read EACH of the following directives.

- 1) Please read the book or one of the choices of books that is specific to your grade level. You will be assessed on your reading during the 1st week of school.

Entering 9th Grade: **READ ONE** of the following books:

- ***I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, Erika L. Sanchez**
- ***Patron Saints of Nothing*, Randy Ribay**

Entering 10th Grade: ***The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien**

Entering 11th Grade: ***The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls**

Entering 12th Grade: please read the book for the course you are enrolled in.

- **Stranger Than Fiction: *Untamed*, Glennon Doyle**
- **Dystopian Literature: *The Lathe of Heaven*, Ursula Le Guin**
- **Rivers & Literature: *Encounters with the Archdruid*, John McPhee**

- 2) **US Book Club Required Reading:** This summer's book is ***Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens**. Please see the description below. A free reading pass will be awarded upon proof of careful reading and we will have a "Book Club" the first week of school. This book will be referenced in English (and other) classes throughout the year.

- 3) We encourage you to read a book(s) of your own choosing. To that end, we have provided you with a list of faculty recommendations as well as some general "good books" to guide your choices.

UPPER SCHOOL BOOK CLUB REQUIRED READING:

Where the Crawdads Sing, Delia Owens

For years, rumors of the “Marsh Girl” have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

Where the Crawdads Sing is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

Vail Mountain School would like to thank The Bookworm in Edwards for offering a 10% discount to VMS students who choose them for their summer reading needs when purchasing books.



FACULTY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UPPER SCHOOL

Andrew Behrendt, Upper School Spanish Teacher

Sophie's World. Jostein Gaarder. It follows Sophie Amundsen, a Norwegian teenager who is introduced to the history of philosophy by Alberto Knox, a middle-aged philosopher.

Art of Racing in the Rain. Garth Stein. A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting look at the wonders and absurdities of human life . . . as only a dog could tell it.

The Power of One. Bryce Courtenay. A powerful and entertaining coming of age story set in S. Africa.

The Nix. Nathan Hill. A hilarious and deeply touching debut novel about a son, the mother who left him as a child, and how his search to uncover the secrets of her life leads him to reclaim his own.

Siddhartha. Hermann Hesse. The spiritual journey of self-discovery of a man named Siddhartha during the time of the Gautama Buddha.

American Dirt. Jeanine Cummins. American Dirt is a 2020 novel about the ordeal of a Mexican woman who had to leave behind her life and escape as an undocumented immigrant to the United States with her son.

Marie Bernardo, Upper School Mathematics and Science Teacher

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking. Susan Cain. Susan Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so. She charts the rise of the Extrovert Ideal throughout the twentieth century and explores how deeply it has come to permeate our culture.

No Barriers: A Blind Man's Journey to Kayak the Grand Canyon. Erik Weihenmayer. Erik Weihenmayer is the first and only blind person to summit Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth. His expedition leader slapped him on the back and said something that would affect the course of Erik's life: "Don't make Everest the greatest thing you ever do." No Barriers is the moving story of his journey since descending Mount Everest.

The Long Haul: A Trucker's Tale of Life on the Road. Finn Murphy. Finn Murphy dropped out of college to become a long-haul trucker. Since then he's covered more than a million miles as a mover, packing, loading, and hauling people's belongings all over America. He recounts with wit, candor, and charm the America he has seen change over the decades and the poignant, funny, and often haunting stories of the people he encounters on the job.

Dead Mountain: The Untold True Story of the Dyatlov Pass Incident. Donnie Eichar. In February 1959, a group of nine experienced hikers in the Russian Ural Mountains died mysteriously on an elevation known as Dead Mountain. Eerie aspects of the incident - unexplained violent injuries, signs that they cut open and fled the tent without proper clothing or shoes, a strange final photograph taken by one of the hikers, and elevated levels of radiation found on some of their clothes - have led to decades of speculation over what really happened.

Jennifer Bill, Lower School Admissions

A Prayer for Owen Meany. John Irving. In the summer of 1953, two eleven-year-old boys are playing in a Little League baseball game when one of the boys hits a foul ball that kills the other boy's mother. The boy who hits the ball doesn't believe in accidents; Owen Meany believes he is God's instrument. What happens to Owen after that 1953 foul ball is extraordinary.

Let My People Go Surfing. Yvon Chouinard. Legendary climber, businessman, environmentalist, and founder of Patagonia, Inc. shares the persistence and courage that have gone into being head of one of the most respected and environmentally responsible companies on earth. This memoir is of a man who brought doing good and having grand adventures into the heart of his business life.

A Dog's Purpose. W. Bruce Cameron. Heartwarming, insightful, and often laugh-out-loud funny, it is not only the emotional and hilarious story of a dog's many lives, but also a dog's-eye commentary on human relationships and the unbreakable bonds between man and man's best friend.

Kate Blakslee, Community Service Coordinator, Alumni Coordinator, Upper School Homebase Advisor and Student Support Services

The Rent Collector. Camron Wright. Set in the largest waste dump in all of Cambodia, this is a story of hope. It follows a family's journey in living in the dump, and that of a woman who collects rent money from them. "It demonstrates that even in a dump in Cambodia- perhaps especially in a dump in Cambodia - everyone deserves a second chance."

This Tender Land. William Kent Krueger. Four orphans journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. It's an enthralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

Carson Blumenreich, Kindergarten Teacher

Centennial. James Michener. Trappers, traders, homesteaders, gold seekers, ranchers, and hunters are brought together in the dramatic conflicts that shape the destiny of the legendary West—and the entire country.

Paint the Wind. Cathy Cash Spellman. Outsize characters and melodramatic incident propels this gaudy Western extravaganza that sweeps from a Louisiana plantation during the Civil War to a wide-open Colorado mining town.

Tanya Boderck, Mathematics Department Chair

Refugee. Alan Gratz. The book follows three young people (Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud) in the journey to seek refuge. All three stories are of three different time periods and three different geographical locations.

Bobby Ecker, Athletic Director

Endurance. Alfred Lansing.

In August 1914, polar explorer Ernest Shackleton boarded the Endurance and set sail for Antarctica and became locked in an island of ice. He and his crew attempted a near-impossible journey over 850 miles of the South Atlantic's heaviest seas to the closest outpost of civilization.

Noel Falk, History Department Chair

A Gentleman in Moscow. Amoré Towles. This is the quiet, but beautifully written fiction novel of Count Alexander Rostov, an aristocrat arrested by the Soviets and sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol Hotel in Moscow in 1922 for revolutionary writings in 1913.

The Balcony. Jane Delury. It is the story of an estate outside Paris and the lives of the inhabitants of the estate. While these short stories are separate and span generations, they are connected to the estate.

The Huntress. Kate Quinn. This is not a "light" summer read, but you won't be disappointed. Though fictional, this novel is based on real Nazi Hunters who work tirelessly in hunting war criminals and documenting the testimony of Holocaust survivors and Night Witches, real life, Soviet (and the only, in the entire world) female fighter and bomber pilots in WWII.

The Map of Salt and Stars. Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar. The story of two girls living eight hundred years apart shows how interconnected two supposedly opposing worlds can be.

The House in the Cerulean Sea. T.J. Klune. This book has it all; magic, orphans, a dangerous task, loneliness, secrets and finding the goodness in humanity. It will make you laugh, cry but mostly it will make you smile. I mean, full hurt-your-face-smile almost the entire time you read this book. It will stay with you for a long time after you put it down.

Marisa Ferrara, College Counselor

Make Your Home Among Strangers. Jennine Capo Crucet. It's a heartfelt American tale of a female Cuban immigrant's journey to higher education in the US and the stark contrast of cultures, politics and life experiences entwined in the first-year transition of college.

The Other Wes Moore. Wes Moore. Wes Moore shares his autobiography as well as the story of another Wes Moore, both having grown up similarly in Baltimore, but whose lives could not have turned out more different.

Italy In Mind: An Anthology. Alice Leccese Powers. A collection of short works, it showcases travel writing at its finest - a perfect summer companion to those who love Italy and like to indulge in wonder and the beautiful, serendipitous nature of adventure.

Steve Gordon, Upper & Middle School Spanish Teacher

The Milagro Beanfield Wars. John Nichols. A farmer in New Mexico battles a large landowner over water rights to his bean field. I liked all of the cultural references and Spanish sprinkled throughout the book.

Andrew Hustad, World Languages Department Chair

The Road. Cormac McCarthy. Equal parts beauty and brutality, The Road follows the path of a father and son as they navigate a new life filled with unimaginable decisions. Highly recommended.

When Breath Becomes Air. Kalanithi, Paul. The memoirs and reflections of a neurosurgeon who is diagnosed with terminal cancer just as he is completing nearly a decade of training. Powerful, heartbreaking, inspiring. Hopefully it leads you to consider the larger questions in life and what, in the end, might give it a deeper sense of meaning.

Dao De Jing. Laozi (Lao Tzu). Composed of 81 short chapters, the Dao De Jing is the central text of Daoist thought. It can be accessed and analyzed on a variety of levels and in my opinion, does not necessarily have to be understood in any particular way to be impactful. There are countless versions, so feel free to email me if you are looking to pick up a copy.

Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy. Simon Blackburn. Although philosophy is one of my favorite topics to read and ponder, I am very much an informal student of the discipline. It is a nice introduction to some of the overarching questions of philosophy and will hopefully push you to explore more.

Cosmicomics. Italo Calvino. A collection of curious short stories concerning science, evolution and the expansion of our universe. It's been 15 years or more since I read this, but every time I see it on my shelf, I think to myself, "I should read that again." Maybe I'm just writing this recommendation as a reminder to myself.

Collins Canada Kelly, Middle School English Teacher

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl. Anne Frank. Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has become a world classical powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. Current stay-at-home orders lend the modern reader new empathy for Anne's life in the "Secret Annex."

Station Eleven. Emily St. John Mandel. Set in the days of civilization's collapse due to a global pandemic, Station Eleven tells the story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity.

A Darker Shade of Magic. V.E. Schwab. The first of a trilogy, A Darker Shade of Magic is a tale of fantasy and adventure that is set in parallel versions of London, each with varying degrees of magic.

The Overstory. Richard Powers. The novel is about nine Americans whose unique life experiences with trees bring them together to address the destruction of forests. The Overstory leaves you with a slightly adjusted frame of reference, and you begin to look at the trees outside your window more curiously.

The Soul of an Octopus. Sy Montgomery. This non-fiction book immerses readers into an intriguing, seductive world just beneath the ocean waves and the lives of the creatures living within. Montgomery brings empathy, insight, and an enchanting sense of wonderment to the bonds we inherently share with other beings—even those seeming far different from us.

Ariel Levine, Visual Art & Design Thinking Teacher

Persepolis, by Marjane Satrapi. I first read this graphic novel in high school and it changed the way I thought about storytelling and narrative. In this novel, Satrapi tells the story of her childhood growing up in Iran before, during and after the Iranian Revolution. She does an amazing job of paralleling the struggles of growing up along with the conflict and social change Iran faced during her time there.

Keeping You a Secret, Julie Anne Peters. This was the first LGBTQ+ YA novel I read after coming out to myself. This story chronicles the journey of self discovery, not just of one's sexuality, but what it means to live your truth in all aspects of your life. The love story between Holland Jaeger and Cece Goddard is sweet, warm and all the things you'd want out of a summer read. However, it was walking along with Holland and her journey to be what she wanted, not what was expected of her, that has made this novel stay with me even after 16 years

The Fault in Our Stars, John Green. I've followed John Green as a youtube personality before he was a New York Times bestselling author. *The Fault in Our Stars* is definitely his most well known novel, but one of my favorites. In this novel, Green explores the power of love and interrogates the meaning of life via the relationship between Hazel and Augustus, two teens who meet at a cancer patient support group. Probably don't read the end of this novel in public, like I did, unless you want everyone to wonder why you're crying profusely. Beautiful, moving, poignant, this is a novel that stays with you long after you finish.

Hounded, Iron Druid Chronicles, Book 1, Kevin Hearne. If you like fantasy, adventure and mythology this might be the series for you. Similar in premise to Neil Gaiman's *American Gods* where all the gods are real and exist due to the power of belief, the series follows Atticus O'Sullivan, a 2000+ year old druid, and the various shenanigans he and his Irish wolfhound, Oberon, get themselves into when the mythical beings of old clash with the modern era. I've listened to the entire series via audiobook and I cannot recommend the performance enough. Also, Oberon is a fan of Arnold Schwarzenegger movies and will keep you laughing as any good animal sidekick should.

Steph Lewis, Upper & Middle School Science Teacher

Greenwood, Michael Christie. A magnificent generational saga that charts a family's rise and fall, its secrets and inherited crimes, and the conflicted relationship with the source of its fortune - trees - from one of Canada's most acclaimed novelists.

Bewilderment, Richard Powers. Set in a not so distant or unimaginable future, a scientist and father works to recover from the death of his wife and raise his neurodiverse son, Robin. Robin enters an experimental neurofeedback therapy program to

train his brain, and father and son journey to grow beyond grief while connecting with nature. This book deals with the consequences of modern politics, climate change, and neurodiversity. Compelling, heartbreaking, and a must read.

***The Guide*, Peter Heller.** A loose sequel to *The River*, this novel follows Jack to a new job (and life) at a luxury fishing resort nestled in a serene valley outside of Crested Butte. This idyllic place has a dark side, however, and Jack finds himself tangled in a dystopian, COVID-laced survival crisis in the heart of the Rocky Mountains.

***The Anthropocene Reviewed*, John Green.** From the novelist and Crash Course history teacher, this book is part memoir, part history, and part commentary on how humans have affected the planet. Green writes short essays “reviewing” quirky but emblematic parts of human existence: from the QWERTY keyboard to the Taco Bell breakfast menu and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Readers will enjoy Green’s unique perspective and humor brought to each topic, with the chance to reflect on what it means to be human.

Maddie Lindley, Upper School English Teacher

***Annapurna: A Woman’s Place*, Maurice Herzog.** A gripping tale about the first all-female ascent of one of Nepal’s tallest mountains. While adventure sits at the forefront of the book, Herzog does not shy away from exploring the hardships that female adventurers often face. A great listen on Audible as well.

***Six of Crows*, Leigh Bardugo.** A fantasy novel that will transport you into a world where you feel justified rooting for the crooks! As the novel unfolds through various character’s perspectives, you get a deep dive into each ‘crooks’ thoughts, desires, and justifications for the choices they make on their daring journey.

***The Light Between Oceans*, M.L. Stedman.** Though you can’t hear their accents, these Australian characters catch your attention in no time. On an isolated island, a lighthouse keeper and his infertile wife find a baby; the beautiful, heart-wrenching story unravels from there.

***Think Again*, Adam Grant.** In a time when people are quick to hold opinions close, Grant offers practical, relevant research on the benefits of thinking again.

***The Sun and Her Flowers*, Rupi Kaur.** Easy to read, yet incredibly powerful, this book of poems highlights a young woman’s journey towards growth, healing, and becoming.

***Sabrina & Corina*, Kali Fajardo-Anstine.** A powerful collection of short stories set in Denver, Colorado. Each story highlights Latina women and their hardships, relationships, and triumphs. A mature read.

Sallie Lodewyck, Human Resources

***Cloud and Wallfish*, Anne Nesbet.** A YA historical fiction novel set just as the Iron Curtain was beginning to lift. Follow eleven year old Noah and his astonishing stutter in East Germany as he navigates a world that seems impossible to understand.

***Empty Mansions*, Bill Dedman, Paul Clark Newell.** Follow the mysterious life of Hugette Clark and the spending of a great American fortune. This book is a mystery of wealth and loss, connecting the extravagance of the Gilded age with the realities of an enormous inheritance battle in the twenty first century.

***All The Light We Cannot See*, Anthony Doerr.** This beautifully written book follows the path of Marie-Laure and her father, a museum worker, on their journey to save a precious item while the Nazi’s occupy Paris. It also follows Werner Pfennig, as he grows up to become an expert at building and fixing radios to track down those in the resistance. The book skillfully weaves these two stories together, illuminating the will for people to be good to one another.

Laurie Mortensen, English Department Chair

***Cowboys Are My Weakness*, Pamela Houston.** This collection of short stories about strong women, the natural world, and the men they love is a 2nd person narrative about the things that make sense even when they are completely illogical.

***The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, Muriel Barbery.** This book is a philosophical tour de force with 2 narrators: a Parisian auto-didactic apartment concierge, and a 12 year old girl contemplating suicide because she is a nihilist. These two characters come together to find meaning in life in unexpected and profound ways.

Circe. Madeline Miller. A bold and subversive retelling of the goddess's story, both epic and intimate in its scope, recasting the most infamous female figure from the Odyssey as a hero in her own right.

Once Upon A River. Diane Setterfield. On a dark midwinter's night in an ancient inn on the river Thames, an extraordinary event takes place. This is a glorious tapestry of a book that combines folklore and science, magic and myth.

The House in the Cerulean Sea, TJ Klune. This story is about family, love, and open-minded exploration of who people really are despite and sometimes because of what they look like. This tale wends its way to an island of "special" children and an unexpected love story. Plan on being enchanted!

Maggie Pavlik, Upper School Director

The Kite Runner. Khaled Hosseini. A beautifully written tale of the friendship of two young boys growing up in pre-Russian Afghanistan and how their lives take a traumatic turn.

We are Called to Rise. Laura McBride. 2016's One Book One Valley read is a contemporary novel that details the real life issues of divorce, police violence, immigration, PTSD, and generations in families— all which intersect in the city of Las Vegas.

Big Little Lies. Liane Moriarty. A novel set in an Australian seaside suburb where women who are looked at as regular soccer moms all have buried secrets from their past and their present..

Becoming. Michelle Obama. Michelle Obama's biography about her childhood and her years in the White House as the FLOTUS.

Crazy for the Storm. Norman Ollestad. An autobiographical story that begins with a plane crash and moves on to detail the life of a boy growing up in the southern California surf culture with his unpredictable father.

We Were the Lucky Ones. Georgia Hunter. A true story of the Kurc family, who scatters across the globe when Poland is invaded by the German Army. A story of hope and survival and incredible optimism.

Know My Name. Chanel Miller. For mature readers!! Ms. Miller's memoir of her sexual assault on the Stanford campus, her trauma, journey, recovery and redemption - POWERFUL for all who will live on a college campus.

Northern Spy. Flynn Berry. A thrilling fictional account of two sisters living in Northern Ireland, where one's IRA connections lead both down a harrowing path.

Quinn Pinaire, Middle School Mathematics Teacher

Ishmael. Daniel Quinn. The story of a man and a gorilla discussing cultural biases and the shortfalls of modern society.

Jake Rainey, Former LA&B Teacher, Assistant AD

Blink, Malcolm Gladwell. How do our brains really make decisions—in the office, in the classroom, in the kitchen? Blink reveals that great decision makers aren't those who process the most information or spend the most time deliberating, but those who have perfected the art of "thin-slicing"—filtering the very few factors that matter from an overwhelming number of variables. Malcolm Gladwell presents all this information through a series of true stories/interviews that make it a super quick and educational read.

Way of the Peaceful Warrior, Dan Millman. *Way of the Peaceful Warrior* is based on the story of Dan Millman, a world champion athlete, who journeys into realms of romance and magic, light and darkness, body, mind, and spirit. This international bestseller conveys piercing truths and humorous wisdom, speaking directly to the universal quest for happiness.

No Picnic on Mount Kenya, Felice Benuzzi. In 1943, Felice Benuzzi and two Italian compatriots escaped from a British POW camp in equatorial East Africa with only one goal in mind--to climb the dangerous seventeen-thousand-foot Mount Kenya. *No Picnic on Mount Kenya* is the classic tale of this most bizarre and thrilling adventure, a story that has earned its place as a unique masterpiece of daring and suspense.

A Man Called Ove, Fredrik Backman. If you ever feel like complaining all the time or really resonate with a grumpy, senile old man, this book will make you laugh and maybe even cry. In this book you'll meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. But then his life changes. Fredrik Backman's novel about the angry old man next door is a thoughtful exploration of the profound impact one life has on countless others.

Lizzy Reed, Upper School History Teacher & Middle School Dean

Fire Keeper's Daughter, Angeline Boulley. Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug. Daunis agrees to go undercover, drawing on her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe traditional medicine to track down the source. The search for truth is more complicated than Daunis imagined. This young adult thriller is going to be adapted by Netflix with President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama's production company, Higher Ground. This book is for mature readers.

Homegoing. Yaa Gyasi. I could not put this book down. The story tracks two half sisters born into different families in Ghana during the eighteenth century. You follow their descendents through eight generations from the Gold Coast to Jazz Age Harlem. Immediately after I finished, I drove to the Bookworm and bought Gyasi's newest book, **Transcendent Kingdom**, which is about an aspiring neuroscientist determined to discover the scientific basis for suffering. Read both!

The Last Cuentista, Donna Barba Higuera. If you have a thing for post-apocalyptic stories like me, you'll enjoy this book. Petra Peña wants nothing more than to be a storyteller like her abuelita. However, Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children – among them Petra and her family – have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet – and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth.

Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of a Life Interrupted, Suleika Jaouad. After graduating from college, Suleika Jaouad was preparing, as they say in commencement speeches, to enter "the real world." She had fallen in love and moved to Paris to pursue her dream of becoming a war correspondent. The real world she found, however, would take her into a very different kind of conflict zone. Jaouad was diagnosed with leukemia with a 35% chance of survival. This book is raw, real, and reminds the reader that life is about more than survival; it's for living. Jaouad is the author of the "Life, Interrupted" column in The New York Times and has also written for Vogue, Glamour, NPR's All Things Considered and Women's Health.

Mike Santambrogio, LPCC Psychological Support Services

Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know. Malcolm Gladwell. Malcolm takes readers on a journey exploring how we interact with strangers, and how our assumptions might lead us astray in how we engage with and/or base our opinions about them.

Think Like A Monk. Jay Shetty. This book helps readers learn how to clear negative thought patterns and self-defeating tendencies from their life, so that they can live to their fullest potential and live a life of purpose.

Ross Sappenfield, Science Department Chair

Where the Water Goes. David Owen An eye-opening account of where the Colorado River water comes from and where it all goes. This was a major resource for Intraterm in 2022 and a must read for anyone concerned with water in the West.

Migrations. Charlotte McConaghy. Much more than a pole to pole quest for Franny to follow the last migration of the arctic terns. Epic and intimate, heartbreaking and galvanizing, Charlotte McConaghy's *Migrations* is an ode to a disappearing world and a breathtaking page-turner about the possibility of hope against all odds.

The Queen's Gambit. Walter Tevis. A must read for the chess club! Beth confronts elements of feminism, addiction, and parental relations as she rises up from an orphanage to the center of the chess world.

The River Between Hearts. Heather Sappenfield. "The River Between Hearts is a beautifully written story about friendship and acceptance. Rill and Perla are heading into summer vacation dealing with their own grief and loss. They learn, 'The best adventures...true ones...test you and teach you about yourself.' (This book) does a wonderful job describing the impact of immigration on children in resort communities."

Project Hail Mary. Andy Weir. Set in the near future, the novel centers on junior high (middle) school-teacher-turned-astronaut Ryland Grace, who wakes up from a coma afflicted with amnesia. He gradually remembers that he was sent to the Tau Ceti solar system, 12 light-years from Earth, to find a means of reversing a solar dimming event that could cause the extinction of humanity

Travels with Charley. John Steinbeck. #vanlife before vanlife was a thing! Steinbeck explores America in one of the first “camper vans” ever in this never ending quest to understand humanity and himself.

Laurie Stavisky, Lower School Reading Teacher

When Stars are Scattered, Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed. Do you remember how much you loved graphic novels? Well treat yourself to this one! This 2020 Newbery award winner reveals the true story of Omar (the coauthor) and his younger brother’s experiences growing up in a refugee camp. It is an action-packed novel filled with heartbreak and hope, love and war, and even a little humor...a must read.

Jaime Walker, Executive Assistant to the Head of School

How Not to Die: Discover the Foods Scientifically Proven to Prevent and Reverse Disease, Michael Greger M.D.

FACLM. I keep this book by my bedside and periodically go back to it whenever I feel I need to make some adjustments to what I eat. Scientifically based, but easy to read, it gives the reader justification and inspiration for eating to support their health.

Song of Achilles, Madeline Miller. It is an action-packed, page turner with love, war, and fame. It is an easy read retelling the story of the legend of Achilles and the Trojan War.

Julia Walsh, Upper School English Teacher

Ready Player One. Ernest Cline. In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenager Wade Watts really feels alive is when he’s jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize.

There Are No Children Here. Alex Kotlowitz. This is an inside look at an America that we never see. The kids are lovable yet tough, and the things that they experience are unfathomable.

Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane. Lisa See. A Chinese mother and her daughter who has been adopted by an American couple align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. Then one day a jeep appears at the village gate—the first automobile any of them have seen—and a stranger arrives.

Educated. Tara Westover. An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.

The Underground Railroad. Colson Whitehead. A magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South.

Just Mercy. Bryan Stevenson. Nonfiction about the justice system and racial inequities from a moving first person, inside perspective.

The Island of Sea Women. Lisa See. Based on real historical events and an obscure culture of women divers on a Korean island.