

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST (2022/23)

Entering 6th Grade Required Reading

Incoming 6th grade students are required to read **two** books over the summer. The first book (with an asterisk) is required for all students. The second book should be chosen from the list below. Students may not substitute a book on the reading list with those of their own choosing.

English class will begin with a discussion of the required book, along with accompanying assignments and projects. Thus, it is essential all summer reading and summer reading assignments must be completed by the first day of school.

****The Lightning Thief***—Rick Riordan. Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is on the most dangerous quest of his life. He must catch a thief who has stolen Zeus’s lightning bolt, and along the way, battle a host of mythological enemies trying to stop him. (Fantasy)

6th Grade Summer Reading Suggestions

Ghost—Jason Reynolds. After his dad tried to kill him and his mom, Castle Cranshaw (aka Ghost) has been running. His running was always for himself, until he joined an elite track team. With a new mentor at his side, Coach, will Ghost be able to make good choices, or will his own bad decisions ruin his chances on the team? (Realistic Fiction)

Lucky Broken Girl—Ruth Behar. In this coming of age story, Ruthie Mizrahi, a 10- year- old girl of Cuban- Jewish heritage, comes to live in New York City. Just when she feels she is making progress socially and culturally, a traumatic injury changes everything. (Historical Fiction)

Merci Suárez Changes Gears—Meg Medina. As scholarship students at their Florida private school, Merci and her brother Roli have always felt a little different. When her grandfather starts to forget things, life at home and in sixth grade seem almost impossible to manage. Winner of the 2019 Newbery Award! (Realistic Fiction)

New Kid—Jerry Craft. Jordan Banks dreams of going to art school as he enters seventh grade, however his parents would rather send him back to the prestigious prep school he attends where he is among the only black students. With humor and sadness, this graphic novel gives a glimpse into the world of a middle school student who just doesn’t quite fit in. (Graphic Novel)

One Crazy Summer—Rita Williams Garcia. In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. (Historical Fiction)

Refugee—Alan Gratz. Follows the lives of three young people, Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud, as each goes on a harrowing journey in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers—from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end. (Historical Fiction / Young Adult)

The Misfits—James Howe. Skeezie, Addie, Joe, and Bobby -- they've been friends forever. They laugh together, have lunch together, and get together once a week at the Candy Kitchen to eat ice cream and talk about important issues. Life isn't always fair, but at least they have each other -- and all they really want to do is survive the seventh grade. This funny coming of age novel explores what it means to fit in, and just how cool it can be to be a misfit. (Young Adult)

The Night Diary—Veera Hiranandani. Our 2019-2020 BWL Middle School Reads book! Follow Nisha as she flees Pakistan after partition in search for a safe place for her family. Told through letters to her deceased mother, Nisha tells a heartfelt story of one girl's search for home and her own identity. (Historical Fiction)

Entering 7th Grade Required Reading

Incoming 7th grade students are required to read **two** books over the summer. The first book (with an asterisk) is required for all students. The second book should be chosen from the list below. Students may not substitute a book on the reading list with those of their own choosing.

English class will begin with a discussion of the required book, along with accompanying assignments and projects. Thus, it is essential all summer reading and summer reading assignments must be completed by the first day of school.

****The Giver*** by Lois Lowry tells the story of Jonas, a young boy raised in a futuristic walled community. The community has eliminated pain, war, fear, and all negative and positive emotions. When the novel begins, Jonas's career is chosen for him. This sets him on a complicated path that leads to a series of horrifying revelations about his community, his family, and the parts of human history that have been removed from collective memory. (Science Fiction)

7th Grade Summer Reading Suggestions

Fever 1793—Laurie Halse Anderson. Young Mattie Cook, living in Philadelphia, struggles with the aftermath of the American Revolution and the onslaught of the plague. Read about her fight for survival. (Historical Fiction)

Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment—James Patterson. This action packed novel has a group of unique kids on the run from an organization. They are fiercely loyal to one another and work to find a way to survive in the wilderness while uncovering the mystery of this secret organization. A story of friendship and survival that will keep you on the edge of your seat! (Science Fiction)

Short and Skinny—Mark Tatulli. As a middle schooler, Mark finds himself on the smaller side of the physical spectrum--being short AND skinny has really wreaked havoc on his confidence. So to end his bullying woes and get the girl--or at least the confidence to talk to the girl--he starts to explore bulking up by way of the miracle cures in the backs of his comics. But his obsession with beefing up is soon derailed by a new obsession: Star Wars, the hottest thing to hit the summer of 1977. As he explores his creative outlets as well as his cures to body image woes, Mark sets out to make his own stamp on the film that he loves. (Graphic Novel)

Brown Girl Dreaming—Jacqueline Woodson.

Tells the story of Woodson's childhood, in verse. In these poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. It also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories. (Poetry and Memoir)

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian—Sherman Alexie. This novel chronicles the life of Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, a Spokane Indian from Wellpinit, WA. When a teacher pleads with this bright fourteen-year-old to escape the hopelessness of "the rez," Arnold switches to a rich white school and immediately becomes as much an outcast in his own community as he is a curiosity in his new one. Through art and soul-searching, he figures out where he truly belongs. (Multicultural Fiction; Adult content)

The Benefits of Being an Octopus—Ann Braden. Some people can do their homework. Some people get to have crushes on boys. Some people have other things they've got to do. This moving debut novel explores the cultural divides around class and the gun debate through the eyes of one girl, living on the edges of society, trying to find her way forward. (Realistic Fiction)

The Devil's Arithmetic—Jane Yolen. Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland. (Historical Fiction)

Uglies—Scott Westerfeld. Set in a futuristic society, this novel follows Tally, an "ugly" who is trying to survive in a society out to control her every move, including one day making her a "pretty." (Science Fiction)

Zenobia July—Lisa Bunker. Zenobia July, an excellent coder and hacker, investigates a mystery while wrestling with the challenges of a new school, a new family, and presenting her true gender for the first time. (Realistic Fiction)

Entering 8th Grade Required Reading

Incoming 8th grade students are required to read **two** books over the summer. The first book (with an asterisk) is required for all students. The second book should be chosen from the list below. Students may not substitute a book on the reading list with those of their own choosing.

English class will begin with discussion, writing, and other assessments of the required book. Students will also be assigned a project to complete about the second book over summer break. Thus, it is essential all summer reading and summer reading assignments must be completed by the first day of school.

****The House On Mango Street***—Sandra Cisneros. Mexican-American author Sandra Cisneros tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, a 12 year-old Chicana girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago through a series of vignettes. (Young Adult)

8th Grade Summer Reading Suggestions

Attucks! Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City—Phillip Hoose. By winning the state high school basketball championship in 1955, ten teens from an Indianapolis school shattered the myth of their inferiority. (Nonfiction)

The Book Thief—Markus Zusak. It is 1939. Nazi Germany. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is *The Gravedigger's Handbook*, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. (Historical Fiction)

Hole in My Life—Jack Gantos. In the summer of 1971, Jack Gantos was an aspiring writer looking for adventure, cash for college tuition, and a way out of a dead-end job. For ten thousand dollars, he recklessly agreed to help sail a sixty-foot yacht loaded with a ton of hashish from the Virgin Islands to New York City. (Memoir)

Internment—Samira Ahmed. Rebellions are built on hope. Set in a horrifying near-future United States, seventeen-year-old Layla Amin and her parents are forced into an internment camp for Muslim American citizens. (Dystopian Fiction)

Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children—Ransom Riggs. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. (Gothic Historical Fantasy/Mystery)

Monster—Walter Dean Myers. Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for murder. Guilty or innocent, Steve becomes a pawn in the hands of "the system." As a way of coping with the horrific events that entangle him, Steve, an amateur filmmaker, decides to transcribe his trial into a script, just like in the movies. (Realistic Fiction/Play)

The Poet X—Elizabeth Acevedo. Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook. (Realistic Fiction, Novel in Verse/Slam Poetry)

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda—Becky Albertalli. Sixteen-year-old and not-so-openly gay Simon Spier prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight. (Realistic Fiction, Romance, LGBT Coming of Age)

The Sun is Also a Star—Nicola Yoon. Natasha: I'm definitely not the kind of girl who meets a cute boy on a crowded New York City street and falls in love with him. // Daniel: I've always been the good son, the good student, living up to my parents' high expectations. But when I see her, I forget about all that. (Realistic Fiction, Romance)

Warcross—Marie Lu. The obsession started ten years ago and its fan base now spans the globe, some eager to escape from reality and others hoping to make a profit. Struggling to make ends meet, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, tracking down Warcross players who bet on the game illegally. (Science Fiction/Dystopian Fiction)

UPPER SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST (2022/23)

With the exception of rising 12th grade, Upper School students must read **one** required text (with an asterisk), which are listed below and at least **two** additional books of their own choosing from the US Summer Reading Suggestions List. English classes will start the semester focusing on these works. Thus, it is essential all summer reading and assignments be completed by the first day of school.

Entering 9th Grade Required Reading

****The Secret Life of Bees***—Sue Monk Kidd. Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past.

Entering 10th Grade Required Reading

****The Kite Runner***—Khaled Hosseini. The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

Entering 11th Grade Required Reading

****Americanah***—Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion—for each other and for their homeland.

Entering 12th Grade Required Reading

All students are required to read at least **one** book of their own choosing from the US Summer Reading Suggestions List. Prospective **AP English students** must also read ***Invisible Man***** and ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor*****.

*****Invisible Man***—Ralph Ellison. Published in 1952, the novel tells the story of a nameless protagonist as he journeys from the Deep South to the streets and basements of Harlem, from a horrifying "battle royal" where black men are reduced to fighting animals, to a Communist rally where they are elevated to the status of trophies. Ellison's nightmare journey across the racial divide tells unparalleled truths about the nature of bigotry and its effects on the minds of both victims and perpetrators.

*****How to Read Literature Like a Professor***—Thomas Foster. While many books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper meanings interwoven in these literary texts, and

Foster's book helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the eyes—and the literary codes—of the ultimate professional reader: the college professor. What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain.

Upper School Summer Reading Suggestions

DYSTOPIAN / FANTASY / SCI FI

Dune (Dune #1)—Frank Herbert. Set in the far future amidst a sprawling feudal interstellar empire, *Dune* tells the story of young Paul Atreides (the heir apparent to Duke Leto Atreides and heir of House Atreides) as he and his family accept control of the desert planet Arrakis, the only source of the 'spice' melange, the most important and valuable substance in the cosmos.

Kindred—Octavia Butler. This combination of slave memoir, fantasy, and historical fiction is a novel of rich literary complexity. Having just celebrated her 26th birthday in 1976 California, Dana, an African-American woman, is suddenly and inexplicably wrenched through time into antebellum Maryland.

Ocean at the End of the Lane—Neil Gaiman. A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. Although the house he lived in is long gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a most remarkable girl, Lettie Hempstock, and her mother and grandmother. When the unremembered past comes flooding back, it is a past too strange, too frightening, and too dangerous.

The Bullet-Catcher's Daughter (Fall of the Gas-Lit Empire #1)—Rod Duncan. Elizabeth Barnabus lives a double life—as herself and as her brother, the private detective. She is trying to solve the mystery of a disappearing aristocrat and a hoard of arcane machines. But when she comes up against an agent of the all-powerful Patent Office, her life and the course of history will begin to change. And not necessarily for the better...

The Handmaid's Tale—Margaret Atwood. Offred is one of many Handmaids in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read, and is only valued if she is able to bear children for them.

The Left Hand of Darkness—Ursula K. Le Guin. A groundbreaking work of science fiction tells the story of a lone human emissary to Winter, an alien world whose inhabitants can choose - and change - their gender. His goal is to facilitate Winter's inclusion in a growing intergalactic civilization. But to do so he must bridge the gulf between his own views and those of the completely dissimilar culture that he encounters.

The Name of the Wind (The Kingkiller Chronicle #1)—Patrick Rothfuss. Told in Kvothe's own voice, this is the tale of the magically gifted young man who grows to be the most notorious wizard his world has ever seen. A high-action story written with a poet's hand, *The Name of the Wind* is a masterpiece that will transport readers into the body and mind of a wizard.

Children of Blood and Bone—Tomi Adeyemi. Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orïsha hummed with magic. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good. (Young Adult)

ESSAYS, POETRY, SHORT STORIES

A Good Man Is Hard to Find and Other Stories—Flannery O’Connor. Thought-provoking, profound, and sometimes violent short stories.

Cathedral—Raymond Carver. Spare, understated short stories that began a new trend in literature. Moving tales about love, loss, loneliness and hard times. Accessible, provocative and challenging.

Naked—David Sedaris. This scaldingly funny collection of writings by one of America’s great contemporary essayists reminds us of how important humor and the comedic temperament is in our own lives and others.

Poems of New York—ed. by Elizabeth Schmidt. An impressive, wide-ranging collection of poetry on the city we call home that spans the early, exuberant musings of Walt Whitman and Hart Crane to contemporary poets post-9/11.

Tales of the Jazz Age and Other Stories—F. Scott Fitzgerald. Short stories set in the roaring twenties. Beautiful prose, complex themes.

Up in the Old Hotel—Joseph Mitchell. A collection of stories and essays, many reprinted from *The New Yorker*, that eloquently chronicle a New York that was, and maybe still is.

FICTION

A Separate Peace—John Knowles. Experiences of adolescents at a boarding school in the early years of WWII erode their innocence and change their world forever. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

All The Light We Cannot See—Anthony Doerr. A beautifully crafted story of a blind French girl and German boy trying to survive the chaos of World War II. The novel relates the interwoven stories of the blind Marie-Laure LeBlanc, the orphaned and diminutive Werner Pfennig and others as they are brought into the globe-spanning conflict that was the Second World War. The plot centers but does not focus upon the fate of the Sea of Flames Diamond in the conflict, with several characters united by it and others tied to them.

Beartown—Frederik Backman. A small Swedish town on the edge of the forest has dwindling resources but a collective dream of winning big in hockey. A small group of teenage boys carry the burden and hope of the town, only to have an act of violence tear at the very fabric of the community.

Beloved—Toni Morrison. Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has borne the unthinkable, yet she is still held captive by memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where hideous things happened. Meanwhile Sethe’s house has long been troubled by the angry, destructive ghost of her baby, Beloved. Sethe works at beating back the past, but it makes itself heard and felt incessantly in her memory and in the lives of

those around her. When a mysterious teenage girl arrives, calling herself Beloved, Sethe's terrible secret explodes into the present.

The Bell Jar—Sylvia Plath. Esther Greenwood is brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful, but slowly going under—maybe for the last time. In her acclaimed and enduring masterwork, Sylvia Plath brilliantly draws the reader into Esther's breakdown with such intensity that her insanity becomes palpably real, even rational—as accessible an experience as going to the movies. The novel is a deep penetration into the darkest and most harrowing corners of the human psyche.

The Eagle of the Ninth (The Dolphin Ring Cycle #1)—Rosemary Sutcliffe. The Ninth Legion marched into the mists of northern Britain—and they were never seen again. Four thousand men disappeared and their eagle standard was lost. It's a mystery that's never been solved, until now.... Marcus has to find out what happened to his father, who led the Legion. He sets out into the unknown on a quest so dangerous that nobody expects him to return.

The Namesake—Jhumpa Lahiri. *The Namesake* takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the vexed results of bringing old ways to the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd, antic name.

Water for Elephants—Sara Gruen. When Jacob Jankowski, recently orphaned and suddenly adrift, jumps onto a passing train, he enters a world of freaks, drifters, and misfits, a second-rate circus struggling to survive during the Great Depression, making one-night stands in town after endless town. A veterinary student who almost earned his degree, Jacob is put in charge of caring for the circus menagerie. It is there that he meets Marlina, the beautiful young star of the equestrian act, who is married to August, the charismatic but twisted animal trainer. He also meets Rosie, an elephant who seems untrainable until he discovers a way to reach her.

MEMOIRS

I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban—Malala Yousafzai, Christina Lamb. A remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina—Misty Copeland. As the only African American soloist dancing with the prestigious American Ballet Theatre, Misty Copeland has made history. But when she first placed her hands on the barre at an after-school community center, no one expected the undersized, anxious thirteen-year-old to become a ground-breaking ballerina.

Maus: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History—Art Spiegelman. A graphic novel of a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father's story and history itself. By addressing the horror of the Holocaust through cartoons, the author captures the everyday reality of fear and is able to explore the guilt, relief and extraordinary sensation of survival - and how the children of survivors are in their own way affected by the trials of their parents.

Odd Man Rush: A Harvard Kid's Hockey Odyssey from Central Park to Somewhere in Sweden--with Stops along the Way—Bill Keenan. In his hilarious, gritty, and touching debut, a hockey star once on the fast-track to the NHL tells of how he found fulfillment and redemption in the strange world of European minor-league professional hockey. Abusive fans, cold showers, long bus rides—nothing diminishes his love for the sport. “Because that’s the way it works with me and hockey. Even when it’s horrible, it’s wonderful.”

MYSTERY / SUSPENSE

One of Us Is Lying (One of Us is Lying #1 —Karen M. McManus. *The Breakfast Club* meets *Pretty Little Liars*, *One of Us Is Lying* is the story of what happens when five strangers walk into detention and only four walk out alive. Everyone is a suspect, and everyone has something to hide.

Martyr—Rory Clements. John Shakespeare, Elizabethan England’s most remarkable investigator, and William Shakespeare’s brother, is the protagonist in this tale of murder and conspiracy that succeeds brilliantly as both historical fiction and a crime thriller.

Revenger—Rory Clements. In the sequel to *Martyr*, the Queen needs John Shakespeare’s services once more. England is still at war with Spain, but her court is riven by savage infighting among ambitious young courtiers. A fantastic novel by a master of historical suspense.

The Godwulf Manuscript (Spenser #1)—Robert B. Parker. Spenser earned his degree in the school of hard knocks, so he is ready when a Boston university hires him to recover a rare, stolen manuscript. He is hardly surprised that his only clue is a radical student with four bullets in his chest. He tackles some very heavy homework and knows that if he doesn't finish his assignment soon, he could end up marked "D" -- for dead.

The Lock Artist—Steve Hamilton. Marked by tragedy, traumatized at the age of eight, Michael, now eighteen, is no ordinary young man. Besides not uttering a single word in ten years, he discovers the one thing he can somehow do better than anyone else. Whether it's a locked door without a key, a padlock with no combination, or even an eight-hundred pound safe ... he can open them all. Young Michael becomes a hot commodity with the wrong people.

The Talented Mr. Ripley (Ripley #1)—Patricia Highsmith. Since his debut in 1955, Tom Ripley has evolved into the ultimate bad boy sociopath. In this first novel, we are introduced to suave, handsome Tom Ripley: a young striver, newly arrived in the heady world of Manhattan in the 1950s. A product of a broken home, Ripley becomes enamored of the moneyed world of his new friend, Dickie Greenleaf, a fondness that turns obsessive.

Truly Devious (Truly Devious #1)—Maureen Johnson. Ellingham Academy is a famous private school in Vermont for the brightest thinkers, inventors, and artists. It was founded by Albert Ellingham, an early twentieth century tycoon, who wanted to make a wonderful place full of riddles, twisting pathways, and gardens. But something strange is happening. The past has crawled out of its grave. Someone has gotten away with murder.

NON-FICTION

A Season on the Brink—John Feinstein. The book follows the basketball season that John Feinstein spent following the Indiana Hoosiers and their fiery coach, Bob Knight. Knight granted Feinstein an unprecedented inside look at college basketball -- with complete access to every moment of the season. Feinstein saw and heard it all -- practices, team meetings, strategy sessions, and mid-game huddles -- during Knight's struggle to avoid a losing season.

Beyond Broadway Joe—Bob Lederer. A nostalgic, inside look from the men who composed the team behind Joe Namath's Super Bowl III win, filled with exclusive insights and stories from the surviving players, coaches, and management of that championship team whose victory changed the landscape of American football.

Friday Night Lights—H.G. Bissinger: A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist spends a season with the Permian Panthers and vividly exposes the glory and the glorification of Texas high school football. Odessa is not known to be a town big on dreams, but the Panthers help keep the hopes and dreams of this small, dusty town going. The town may be socially and racially divided, but every Friday night from September to December, when the Permian High School Panthers play football, this West Texas town becomes a place where dreams can come true.

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster—Jon Krakauer. A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong.

Into the Wild—Jon Krakauer. In April, 1992, Christopher Johnson McCandless, a young man from a well-to-do family, hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. Craving a blank spot on the map, McCandless simply threw away the maps. Leaving behind his desperate parents and sister, he vanished into the wild.

Unbroken—Lauren Hillenbrand. The inspiring true story of a man who lived through a series of catastrophes almost too incredible to be believed, *Unbroken* tells the story of Louie Zamperini—a juvenile delinquent-turned-Olympic runner-turned-Army hero. In boyhood, he'd been a cunning and incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he had channeled his defiance into running, a talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when war had come, the athlete had become an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks—Rebecca Skloot. Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.

ROMANCE

Emma—Jane Austen. Emma Woodhouse is one of Austen's most captivating and vivid characters. Beautiful, spoiled, vain and irrepressibly witty, Emma organizes the lives of the inhabitants of her sleepy little village and plays matchmaker with devastating effect.

Frankly in Love—David Yoon. Frank Li is a Korean American teen who feels neither completely Korean nor completely American. His parents want him to get into a good school, become a businessperson, and marry someone Korean. His sister, Hannah, broke that trajectory and was ostracized by their parents. Frank decides to avoid a similar fate by enlisting the help of one of the Korean girls from his parents' friend group so they can both date other people. (Young Adult)

Lovely War—Julie Berry. A sweeping, multi-layered romance with a divine twist, set in the perilous days of World Wars I and II. It’s the story of four lovers, and the unlikely way in which each couple falls deeply in love. Thirty years after these four lovers' fates collide, the Greek goddess Aphrodite tells their stories to her husband, Hephaestus, and her lover, Ares, in a luxe Manhattan hotel room at the height of World War II. She seeks to answer the age-old question: Why are Love and War eternally drawn to one another? But her quest for a conclusion that will satisfy her jealous husband uncovers a multi-threaded tale of prejudice, trauma, and music and reveals that War is no match for the power of Love. (Young Adult)

Price of Salt—Patricia Highsmith. The story of Therese Belivet, a stage designer trapped in a department-store day job, whose salvation arrives one day in the form of Carol Aird, an alluring suburban housewife in the throes of a divorce. They fall in love and set out across the United States, pursued by a private investigator who eventually blackmails Carol into a choice between her daughter and her lover.

The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue (Montague Siblings #1)—Mackenzi Lee. Henry “Monty” Montague was born and bred to be a gentleman, but he was never one to be tamed. The finest boarding schools in England and the constant disapproval of his father haven’t been able to curb any of his roguish passions—not for gambling halls, late nights spent with a bottle of spirits, or waking up in the arms of women or men.

Please note: All book descriptions are either written by faculty members or supplied by Goodreads.com.