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.)


*Updated April 28, 2023*
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.


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.


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.


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?