

Our summer reading is designed to develop literacy, curiosity, social awareness, and independent thinking. We have carefully selected texts that encourage students to see their world from a different perspective. Please feel free to read and discuss these books with your students.

### **ONLINE BOOKSTORE**

In the Upper School, we use an online book distributor. In order to ensure consistency in editions and for students to be able to use the same book together in class at the beginning of the year, we are using MBSDirect which can be found by following [this link](#).

### **RATIONALE**

Summer reading encourages students to remain intellectually active over the summer and serves as an anchor text for the first written assessment of the course. Why nonfiction? Students need to be comfortable with reading and analyzing nonfiction texts to succeed on standardized tests. Additionally, reading a memoir can help students to grow in empathy and learn how to articulate their own unique stories.

### **GUIDANCE**

Buy a new, clean, paper copy of each book. Write your name inside the front cover.

As you read it might be helpful to annotate. If you are unfamiliar or would like to take this skill to the next level, please read Ms. Cuneo's helpful [guide to annotation](#). Bring your books to English class the first week of school and be ready to write an in-class essay.

Academic integrity requires that you read books, in their entirety, by yourself. We would love for you to discuss what you read with peers or family members, but only after you have read independently. Do not use an online study guide or any other resource as a substitute for reading. When you are choosing a book from a list, select a novel that you have not read before.

Note to parents: We encourage families to read together. Some of our approved books discuss emotionally difficult, even traumatic, themes and situations. Please discuss this assignment with your children and guide them as you see fit.

### **BOOKS**

#### **Grade 9**

***Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card*** by Sara Saedi

This book is a poignant portrayal of the hurdles Sara and her family faced to rebuild their lives after fleeing Iran, and the anxiety that being an undocumented immigrant added to her awkward teenage years.

#### **Grade 10**

***Born A Crime*** by Trevor Noah

In this memoir, students explore how Trevor Noah leverages elements of fiction such as characterization, figurative language, humor, and symbolism to develop his complex argument about systemic oppression and its impact on identity development.

## Grade 11

### ***Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover***

Author Tara Westover shares an intimate memoir of her surreal journey from a traumatic upbringing in rural Idaho to the halls of Cambridge University and speaks to the transformative power of education.

## Grade 12

### ***Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* by Mary Roach**

In this *New York Times* bestselling nonfiction book about the history of human cadavers, Mary Roach uses humor and forensic science to explore the strange lives of our bodies postmortem.

## AP Language and Composition

### Required Title:

***Thank You for Arguing, Third Edition: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion***

### Student Choice:

#### ***Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover**

Author Tara Westover shares an intimate memoir of her surreal journey from a traumatic upbringing in rural Idaho to the halls of Cambridge University and speaks to the transformative power of education.

OR

#### ***Old School* by Tobias Wolff**

This fictional story of an ambitious, idealistic, and insecure teenager who makes a serious mistake and faces the consequences draws on the author's own personal experiences at a New England boarding school.

## AP Literature and Composition

### Required Title:

***How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Thomas C. Foster (Revised Edition)**

### Student Choice:

Select your second book from [this list](#) of novels frequently read on the AP exam. Note: please do not select a title that appears on the course reading list as we will be reading those books together in class.