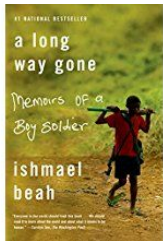


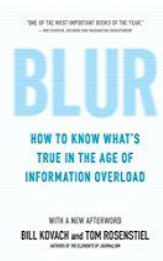
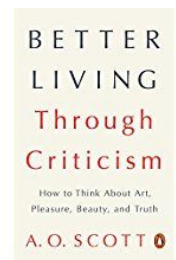
Language Arts January 2018 eNews: “Read More Books”

According to Statista, which synthesizes data from more than 18,000 sources, the most popular New Year’s Resolution for 2018 is “saving money” - with 53 percent of those surveyed stating that financial health tops their list of goals this year. Forty-five percent value physical health and intend to lose weight, while twenty-four percent plan to travel. However, almost a quarter of those interviewed have dedicated themselves to intellectual growth and intend to “**read more books.**” With that in mind, the West Chicago Language Arts Division faculty offers a list of non-fiction titles guaranteed to inspire, illuminate, educate, and entertain...



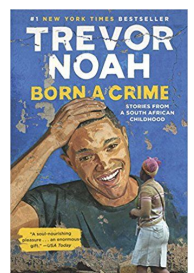
WEGO freshmen studied the hero’s journey during the first semester, and the award winning 2008 tale *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah continues a reader’s initiation into the challenges faced by modern heroes. Recommended by the English I faculty: **JEN CULBERTSON, MARY FREMEAUX*, LAURA MORAN, SHANNON SANCHEZ, and CAT THEILBERG.** *A Long Way Gone* “puts life into perspective*.”

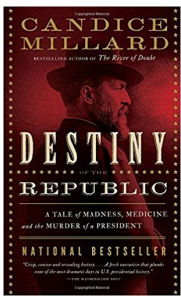
Juniors and seniors in **BRIAN TURNBAUGH**’s AP Language and Composition are always ready for a good argument, and they will not be disappointed by *Better Living Through Criticism: How to Think about Art, Pleasure, Beauty, and Truth* by A.O. Scott. The author claims that everyone’s a critic and articulates his own criticism of everything from *The Avengers* to “Ode to a Grecian Urn.” Turnbaugh describes the critique saying, “One of my favorite writers expands upon the craft of film criticism.”



If one’s genre of choice is print journalism, TV news, or even an American-made blog, *Blur: How to Know What’s True in the Age of Information Overload* by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel outlines how to distill the truth in media today. Recommended by **Laura Kuehn**, journalism instructor and sponsor of the WCCHS *Wildcat Chronicle*, Ms. Kuehn describes *BLUR* as a resource in which “top journalists help guide people through the minefield of news and lies purported to be true.”

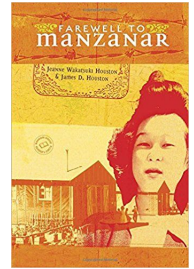
The eighth most read book on Amazon’s charts, *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by late night host and comedian Trevor Noah gets the nod from **Mark Begovich**, English II Honors, Drama, and Advanced Drama teacher and WEGO Drama sponsor. Begovich states, “Noah, who you know from *The Daily Show*, explains his life as a child under Apartheid rule in South Africa with his trademark humor.” Recognized by *The New York Times*, *Newsday*, *Esquire*, NPR, and Booklist, this memoir appeals to a diverse readership through its grit, honesty, humor, and the depiction of triumph.





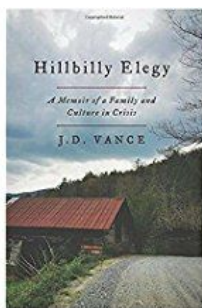
Prolific author and historian, Candice Millard, documents the professional life and times of the 20th president, in *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine, and the Murder of a President* about James Garfield, whose rise and death symbolized the temper of the times. Recommended by division chair **Mary Howard**, this narrative history recounts Garfield's attempts to take on the political establishment and the unlikely role that violence and the medical profession had on the president and the nation. The account underlines the power of those who surround a president and how access has impact.

The third memoir on the list, *Farewell to Manzanar*, by Jeanne Wakatsuki offers a timeless look at the internment of more than 10,000 Japanese Americans in Manzanar Concentration Camp in Inyo County California in 1942. English 2 and ESL teacher **Anna Murray** recommends this text describing it as “a little known story about the incarceration of Japanese-Americans. It was a significant event for us to re-examine our civil rights and how we view others.” Despite its 1973 publication date, *Farewell to Manzanar* resonates in 2018 - perhaps now more than decades past.

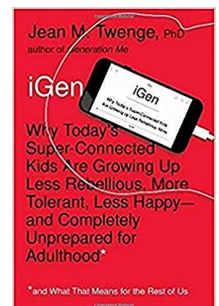


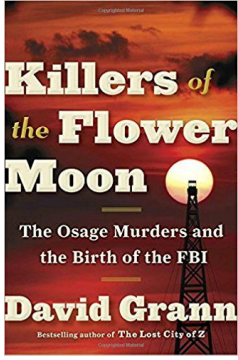
The modern memoir, *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* examines the challenges and potential death of the American Dream for white working class families.

Recommended by **Brad Larson**, English 3 and British and World Literature teacher, *Hillbilly Elegy* details the story of the Vance family, Kentuckians who attempt to escape poverty by transplanting themselves in the Ohio Rust Belt. Mr. Larson says, “J.D. Vance’s story and his analysis of the family, cultural, and economic forces that shaped his life provide a first-hand account of experiences to which many Americans can relate. Nuanced and insightful, this book can help us better understand our nation and ourselves.” Vance, a third generation member of the family, former Marine, and Yale Law School graduate, considers the legacy of poverty and the collateral dysfunction.



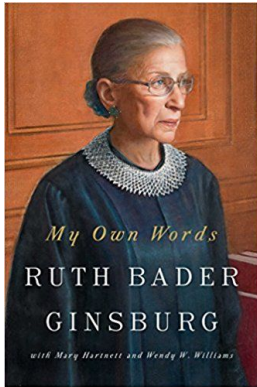
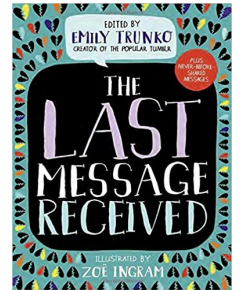
While the prior recommendation looks at the impact of the past, *I-Gen* by Jean Twenge investigates the effect of the tech-filled present on the future of today's kids. “I-Gen,” those born in the decade between the mid 1990s through the mid 2000s, which includes current middle and high school students, has come of age in a radically different environment and displays behaviors and values in conflicts with the generations that preceded them. English 1 Honors and British World Literature teacher **Shannon McMullen**, comments on the significance of *I-Gen*: “If you're curious about the larger issues that impact how this generation is growing up and preparing for adulthood, then read Twenge's book. She compares this generation to Millennials, explaining how adults can guide [today's kids] towards self-actualization and happier, healthier lives.” The text discusses the rampant anxiety and depression of these children and young adults, as well as their attitudes toward diversity, religion, and politics.





Also published in 2017, *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann has garnered extensive praise as a *New York Times* Best Seller, National Book Award Finalist, and Amazon Editors' Pick for the Best Book of 2017 for its chronicling of the destruction ravaged upon the Osage Indian nation in Oklahoma in the 1920s. Recommended by the English 3 Enriched faculty, **JAMIE CULEN, DAVE JENNINGS, AND NICOLE OSBORNE**, this narrative non-fiction details the response by the FBI under J Edgar Hoover to murders committed in cold blood and unveils the prejudice and conspiracy that allowed this tragedy to continue.

Also emotionally meaningful, *The Last Message Received* features one hundred final or "last" texts, emails, and social media posts edited by sixteen-year-old Emily Trunko. The introduction to the volume reads, "You never know which message you send or receive will be your last one you exchange with that person." Recommended by English 2 and senior English elective teacher **Melissa Rausch**, *The Last Message Received* "connects to the type of reading and writing kids and adults do on a daily basis. It opens a conversation about the importance of what we communicate to others, the language we use, and the timing of what we say." Pick up the book or read the Tumblr account of the same name.



Equally moving although perhaps more measured, *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsburg includes a wide-range of writings and speeches by the US Supreme Court Justice dating back to her 1946 elementary school newspaper the *Highway Herald*. Recommended by English 2 Honors and senior English elective teacher **Jill Nolan**, *My Own Words* communicates the humanity and passions of this notable American woman.