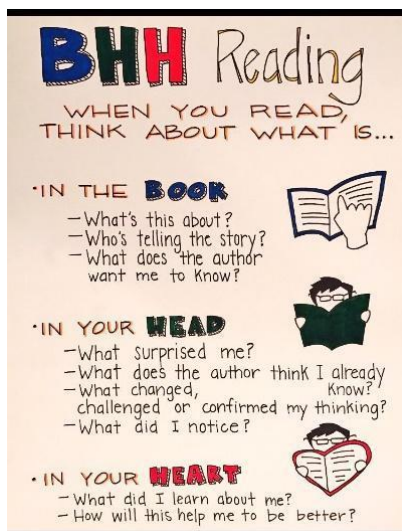




2024

The National English Honor Society helped compile a list of their favorite reads for this year's summer reading! They've included a short summary, why they enjoyed the book, and why they believe it's a good choice. *ALL students at Immaculate High School should choose one book from the list below. Books were also selected to aid in understanding different perspectives, creating a foundation for discussion. It is recommended to choose something that best suits your reading level.

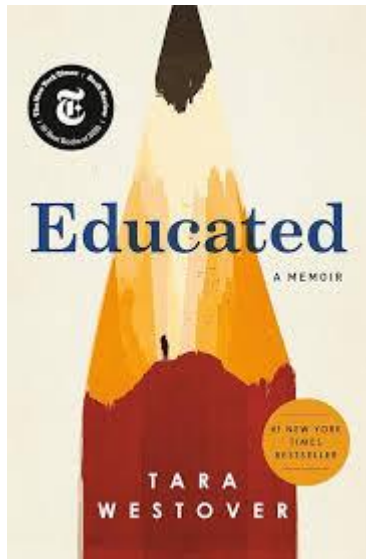


Students are expected to return to school having read the book and being prepared to work with it, as summer reading will be taught in all English classes as part of an opening unit. Students should bookmark at least five important passages and complete the worksheet (attached separately) with questions adapted from *Disrupting Thinking: Why How We Read Matters* by Beers & Probst.

*Students in AP level English: choose one book from the below list AND complete the appropriate AP assignments. (separate attachment)

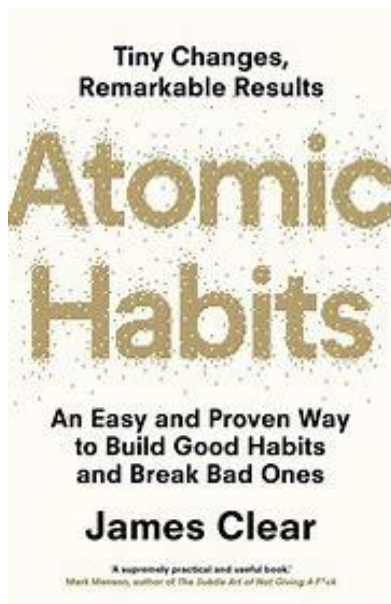
Parents/Guardians interested in examining a book's content should reference: [Common Sense Media](#)

Nonfiction



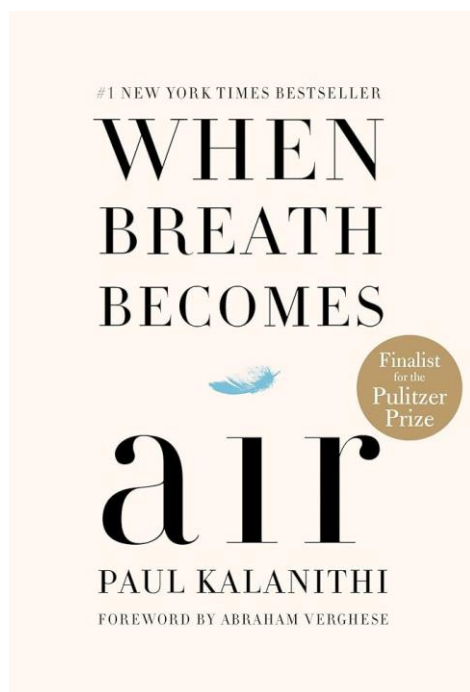
A young woman grows in an isolated community completely off the grid, in a family beset by mental illness, paranoia, and violent patriarchal control. In the defining moment of her life, she makes the impossible decision to leave her family, and her father's cult of personality, to join modern society in pursuit of a college education.

The community the author depicts is so captivating, especially because its horrors are matched by warmth and fierce loyalty. This book gives perspective to those of us who take education for granted and consider it something to be endured rather than pursued.



Atomic Habits by James Clear speaks about the power of small habits, advocating for the concept of atomic habits—small changes that compound into results over time. Clear offers easy advice on habit formation, emphasizing cravings, responses, and rewards. Through this, he shows readers how to create lasting habits and positive changes in their life.

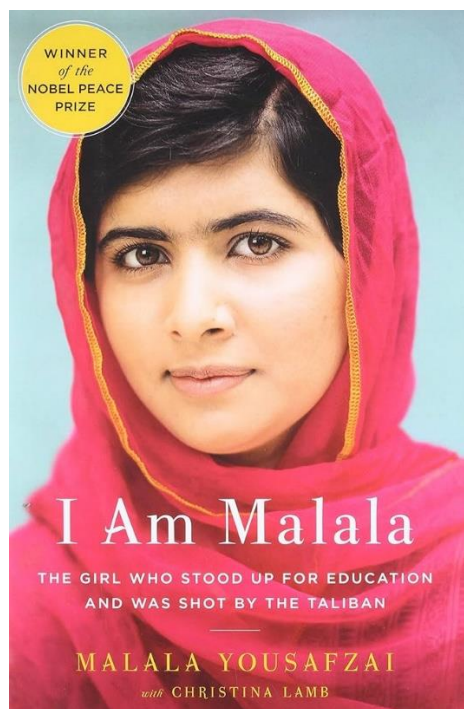
It offers practical and easy-to-implement strategies backed by psychological principles. His emphasis on the small, manageable changes resonates as it feels achievable and sustainable. It offers practical advice for students of all ages, and the advice can be easily applied during the relaxed atmosphere of the summer season in order to better prepare students for the school year.



A highly successful Stanford Neurosurgeon is just about to graduate and truly prosper before being diagnosed with stage three lung cancer. His future with his wife, his career, everything began to fade away suddenly. He wrote this memoir before his death, when his breath filled with life slowly became nothing but air.

This memoir reminds me that nothing in life is promised. Paul didn't waste a single day merely existing, but living for as long as his body allowed, and devoting himself to others.

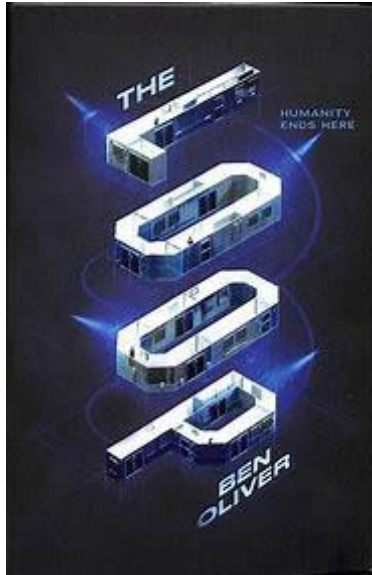
Although grim, this memoir is very easy to read. It's short, but it will leave a positive imprint on the reader. It reminds us to live our lives to the fullest, taking nothing for granted, and the legacy we leave behind can last longer than we ever will.



I Am Malala, written by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb, is an autobiography telling the story of the girl who stood up for women's education and rights. As a girl who grew up in Pakistan, Malala faced terrorism and injustice simply for wanting an education. She went on to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 at the age of 17.

I found her story to be very interesting and important. I admire Malala for her fearless actions and significant contributions to women's education.

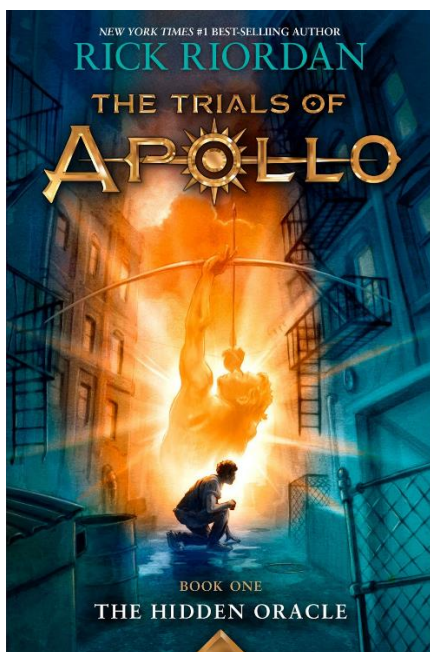
Fiction



The Loop, written by Ben Oliver, speaks of a boy, Luka Kane, who is a wrongfully accused prisoner in a jail run by a ruthless AI known as Happy. The whole outside world gets attacked by a virus and Luka, after realizing that he is immune, escapes the prison and focuses on saving the world from both the virus and the influence of Happy, noticing that everything he has been taught is not as it seems.

I really enjoyed this story because it spoke of the influence that AI has on humanity and the fact that it can be more destructive than good. In addition, hearing about how Luka overcame his own hardships really inspired me to keep going in my life even when it seemed difficult.

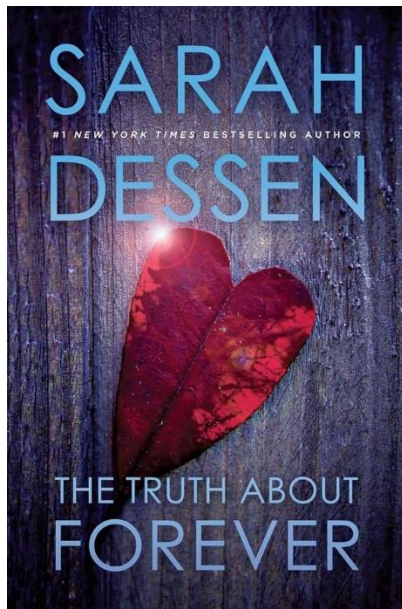
It has not only an engaging plot line full of many twists and turns, but it also teaches students the importance of standing up for what's right and for what you believe.



This book is about the immortal god, Apollo, being punished by Zeus by being turned into a mortal. He now has to restore and free the oracles from the wrath of a new enemy. As the story goes on, Apollo struggles to adjust to his new life and to get his immortality back, but will be succeed or be devoured by the monster of Greek Mythology?

I chose this book because it talked about an immortal being a mortal and the struggles he went through to adjust to this new life.

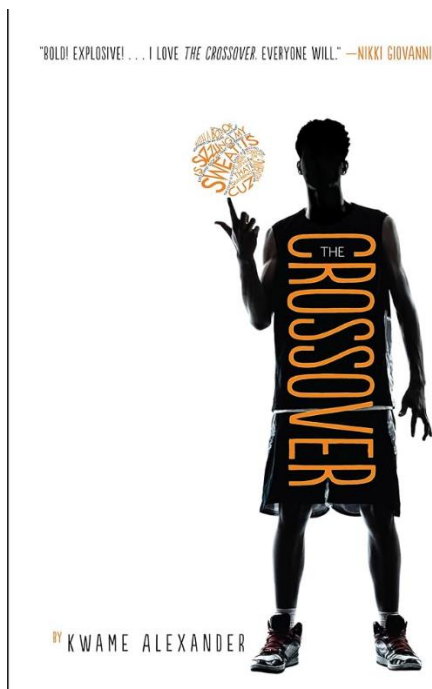
This book is a fantasy adventure book that has many twists and turns that left me on the edge of my seat and kept me wanting to read more. It had adventure and showed different trials that many people go through in their life.



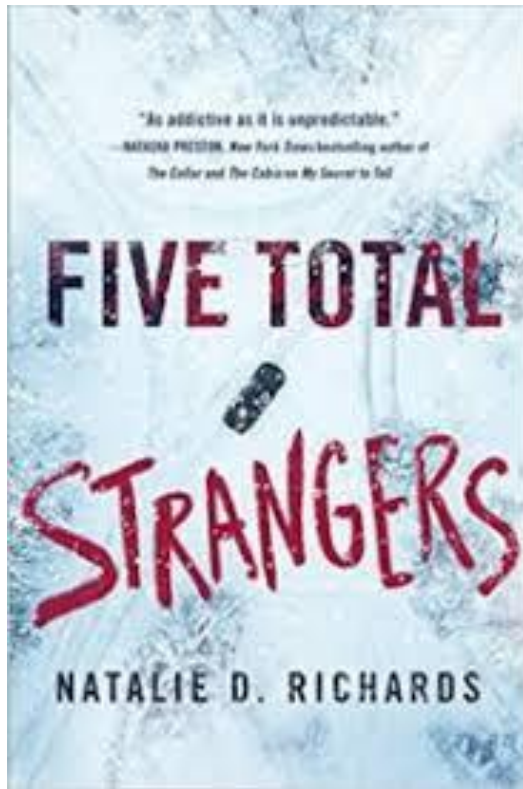
This story follows Macy Queen, a struggling teen who grapples with the tragic loss of her father. She goes through her grief trying to find ways to cope only to realize that chasing perfection is futile, but embracing the chaos and unpredictability of life is where the true joy lies.

I liked this book because I can relate to feeling the loss of a close family member. We often think grief is linear, and this book proves that it's not. Striving for perfection when you're struggling is something that no one should do, as it creates unnecessary pressure. This book sheds light on dealing with loss and embracing imperfection, which leads to true happiness.

Many teens will be able to relate to the loss of a family member, and it's an incredibly well-written book.



The Crossover is an interesting, different type of book that is written in a poem structure. It is about two identical twins, Josh and JB, who are basketball players at their school. They are approaching a big basketball game, but things become stressful as their year comes to a close. The book allows for a deeper analysis of why and how he writes in the poetic structure and allows students to perfect annotating skills as they analyze.

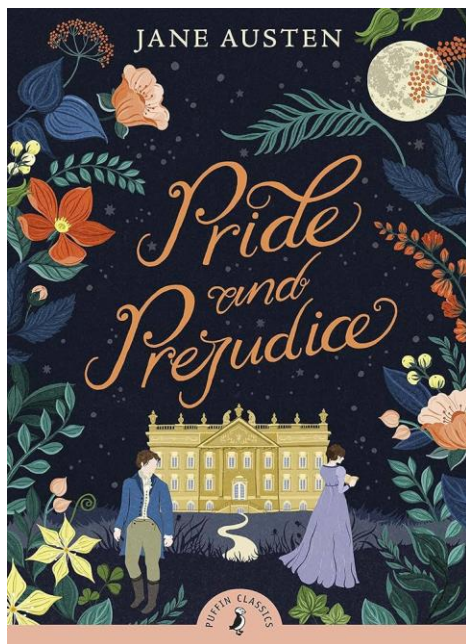


This book follows the journey of a young woman, Mira, as she is trapped in the car with 5 total strangers for 6 hours. All is going well, and she should get home safely by Christmas, but not all is as it seems. In this twisting mystery novel, the reader questions over and over why this group was brought together - and what dark secret the characters might be hiding. It isn't terribly complex, but it's still very easy to analyze the character relations and the impact of danger on the actions of the characters.

Classics



The Awakening, penned by Kate Chopin in 1899, follows a young wife named Edna Pontellier and her journey of self-discovery and personal emancipation. Despite living in a beautiful home and having a faithful husband and two young children, Edna finds herself unsatisfied with her life as a whole. I adored this story due to the wide variety of characters, and the heavy use of symbolism. It made me more grateful my own independence and ability to choose my own path in life. The story is compelling and pushes the reader to understand a different time period, plus the writing is crafted in such a way that is rich with literary devices.



This is a 1800s classic written by Jane Austen. It tells the story of Elizabeth Bennet and her family, while also describing the struggles that Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth face while learning how to love each other fully. I liked this book because it had a romance trope while also showcasing a greater meaning. Jane Austen's writing captivated me into wanting to learn more about Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet. This book helps students get a handle on the more classic books and handles the hardships that some people may have to face in order to be able to truly love someone.