

May, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As your son or daughter prepares to begin as a student at Brookwood High School, the Language Arts Department will be expecting all students to read this summer. These novels will be used to guide instruction during the first couple weeks of school. Rising ninth graders are expected to read **one or more** of the following **choice novels** during summer break:

a. *Age of Miracles* – Karen Thompson Walker

“It’s never the disasters you see coming that finally come to pass—it’s the ones you don’t expect at all,” says Julia, in this spellbinding novel of catastrophe and survival by a superb new writer. Luminous, suspenseful, unforgettable, *The Age of Miracles* tells the haunting and beautiful story of Julia and her family as they struggle to live in a time of extraordinary change.

b. *Star Wars: Bane* – Drew Karpysyn

If your child has ever been curious about the true nature of the culture of the Sith, then this is the novel for her or him. This New York Times best seller creates a brilliant political, economic, and social allegory utilizing the Star Wars’ universe. Here we see the genesis of the Sith Lord Darth Bane. His path of self-destruction, which leads to a life of evil, is brilliantly and tragically outlined within Karpysyn’s pages. Readers are treated to a full understanding of how and why the Sith operate as they do within the galaxies of the stars. A must read for all fans.

c. *Star Wars: Master and Apprentice*– Claudia Gray

Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn and his Padawan apprentice Obi-Wan Kenobi, defenders of all good within the universe, are following the unmistakable scars of the dark side of the force in this canonical novel by Claudia Gray. This work brilliantly details the imaginative mythological culture and religion of the light side of the force, or the Jedi. Master Jinn is allegorically named and appropriately so. He is feared by the Sith above all Jedi because of his innate understanding of both the light and dark powers of the force. The novel details the eight years prior to the film Episode 1. Another must read for fans of the Jedi order.

d. *Children of Blood and Bone*–Tomi Adeyemi

Readers are treated to an entirely original mythological pantheon originating in Africa. This same pantheon, which has also migrated to the Caribbean and the majority of Latin America, is represented in a brilliantly and accurately researched and developed first novel by Adeyemi. *Children of Blood and Bone* details the heroic efforts of protagonist Zolie Adebola to bring magic back to her people. **This novel contains violence and other mature themes.**

e. *Enrique’s Journey*–Sonia Nazario (Young Adult Adaptation)

Based on the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper series that won two Pulitzer Prizes, one for feature writing and another for feature photography, this astonishing story puts a face on the ongoing debate about immigration reform in the United States. Now a beloved classic, this page-turner about the power of family is a popular text in classrooms and a touchstone for communities across the country to engage in meaningful discussions about this essential American subject.

f. *American Road Trip* – Patrick Flores-Scott

After Teodoro's older brother, Manny, left for Iraq, the Avila family began to fall apart. Then the 2008 financial crisis hit, and the Mexican-American Avilas downsized to a dumpy rental home amid a loss of income. Teodoro doesn't see much hope for his broken family, but news of Manny's return inspires the Avilas to improve their lives. Spurred on by an old childhood friend, Latina Wendy Martinez, and his Polynesian best bud, Caleb Ta'amu, Teodoro even tries to become a college-bound student. But when Manny comes home, he can't shake off the shock of war. Flores-Scott's (*Jumped In*, 2013) latest work explores the fragile bonds of a fractured family through moments full of poignant confession and self-discovery.

g. *Dread Nation* – Justina Ireland

Jane McKeene was born two days before the dead began to walk the battlefields of Gettysburg and Chancellorsville, derailing the War Between the States and changing America forever. In this new nation, safety for all depends on the work of a few, and laws like the Native and Negro Reeducation Act require certain children attend combat schools to learn to put down the dead. **This novel contains violence and other mature themes.**

Lastly, teachers will share their individual supply lists during orientation day in August. We look forward to meeting our students and a wonderful school year. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

9th Grade Language Arts Teachers