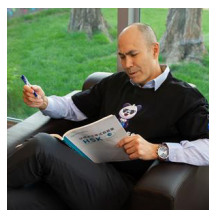
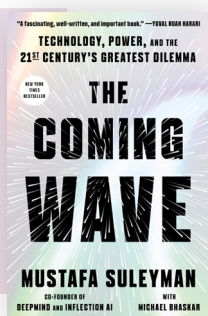


ISB SUMMER READING LIST 2025



Recommendation
from Head of School
Daniel Rubenstein



The Coming Wave: Technology, Power, and the Twenty-First Century's Greatest Dilemma

By Mustafa Suleyman and Michael Bhaskar

An ISB parent recommended this to me and it's on Bill Gates' reading list. If you want to think about AI and you've already read *AI Super-Powers* by friend of ISB Kai-Fu Lee, then *The Coming Wave* is a great next book. AI is going to change everything, and we need to be prepared.



Recommendation
from the Board of
Trustees



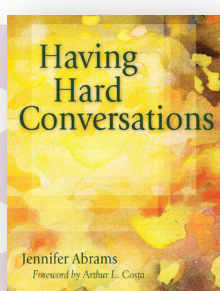
Design for Belonging: How To Build Inclusion and Collaboration in Your Communities

By Susie Wise

Belonging is essential for thriving communities. At the International School of Beijing, a sense of belonging ensures that parents, teachers, and leaders feel welcomed and valued. *Design for Belonging* by Susie Wise offers practical strategies to foster inclusion through rituals, adaptable spaces, and shared responsibilities. By implementing these approaches, we can create an environment that embraces diverse perspectives and enhances our community's overall well-being.



Recommendation
from ES Principal
Dr. Dustin Collins



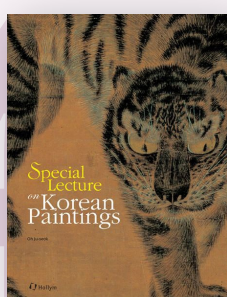
Having Hard Conversations

By Jennifer B. Abrams

Dr. Collins first met Jennifer at her EARCOS workshop on communications and has since modeled so much of his substance and style around her practices. *Having Hard Conversations* presents a blueprint for safely navigating emotionally charged conversations.



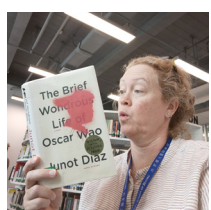
Recommendation
from our Korean
Book Club



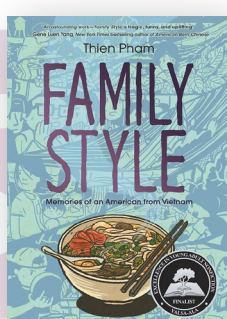
Special Lecture on Korean Paintings

By Ju Seok Oh

Our wonderful Korean Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month at ISB. They have put together a list of 10 books and welcome any parent to join them. Their latest read which they highly recommend is *Special Lecture on Korean Paintings* by Ju Seok Oh. This short but lovely book provides an introduction to traditional Korean painting.



Recommendation
from High School
Librarian
Kelly Donaldson



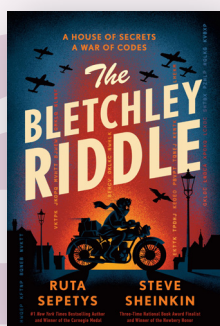
Family Style

By Thien Pham

Family Style is one of our Panda Book Award picks for 2025-2026. This powerful graphic memoir tells the story of Thien Pham's journey from Vietnam to the U.S., using food as a lens to explore identity, family, and survival. Through vivid artwork and emotional storytelling, Pham shares moments both heartwarming and heartbreaking. If you enjoy stories of resilience, culture, and the meaning behind everyday moments, this book will stay with you long after you finish it. Get a head start on next year's Panda Awards by reading this book over the summer.



Recommendation
from Middle School
Librarian Kelly Phillips



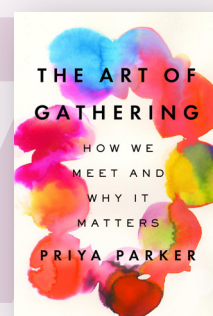
The Bletchley Riddle

By Ruta Sepetys and Steven Sheinkin

The Bletchley Riddle is a thrilling mystery set in World War II England, where a group of teens uncovers secrets linked to the famous Bletchley Park codebreakers. With espionage, hidden clues, and high-stakes puzzles, this gripping story is perfect for readers who love historical fiction with a twist of intrigue. A great summer pick for fans of codes, courage, and clever sleuthing!



Recommendation
from Middle School
Principal Anne Sweet



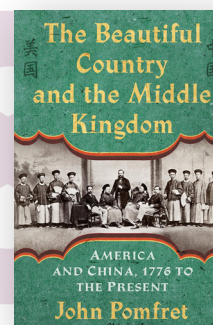
The Art of Gathering

By Priya Parker

Principal Sweet is reading *The Art of Gathering*, which helps organizers of events, meetings, and other gatherings think about gathering as an art form, rather than just a function of work. Anne and the MS team are using this book to help shape some of their leadership goals and work in the coming school year.



Recommendation
from High School
Principal
Will Paananen



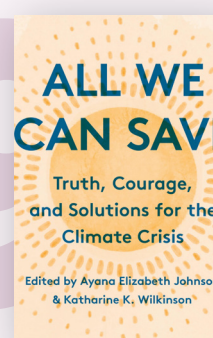
The Beautiful Country and Middle Kingdom

By John Pomfret

This is an engagingly written history of the dynamic relationship between China and the United States. The roots of this connection run deep and involve economics, politics, business, culture, art, food, and even early Hollywood films. The relationship has had ups and downs, and the stories feature interesting and unique individuals who made choices and built relationships that still shape the world today. This is a great book about the most important, and interesting, international relationship in the world. Which ISB student will write the next chapter?



Recommendation from
Paola Alonso,
Sustainability Manager,
and Kathlyn Paananen,
Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion Leader



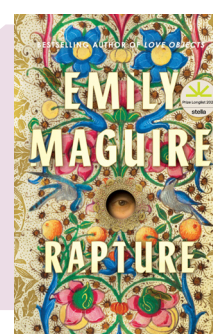
All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis

Co-edited by Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Dr. Katharine K. Wilkinson

At ISB, we raise thinkers and leaders empowered with purpose and compassion. To raise such global citizens, we encourage this book that provides key examples of global ancestral practices to care for people and the planet. ISB Dragons build bridges, not walls. These stories will inspire you to lead from the heart and model compassion, connection, and the creative ways to collaborate across diverse perspectives.



Recommendation
from Elementary
School Librarian
Bec Taylor



RAPTURE

By Emily Maguire

Australian novelist Emily Maguire's *Rapture* is a powerful, thought-provoking reimagining of Middle Ages religious history. Detailing the ascendancy of the first female pope, *Rapture* takes the reader on a journey into historical misogyny, religious fanaticism, and the secretive inner workings of the Vatican. There's a surprising thread of romance and a few well-worn tropes to keep the book from being too heavy; though this might divide lovers of literary fiction. A perfect read as the world observes the beginnings of Pope Leo XIV's reign.



Recommendation
from Elementary
School Librarian
Paul Wong



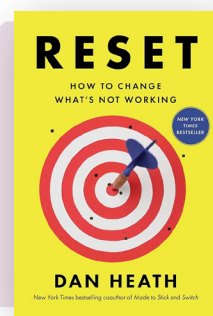
Indigenous Pacific Island Eco-Literatures

Co-edited by Kathy Jethil-Kijiner, Leora Kava, Craig Santos Perez

This is a vibrant anthology featuring a diverse array of works from Indigenous writers across the Pacific, showcasing poetry, prose, visual texts, and dramatic plays. Through seven key themes, the book addresses urgent environmental issues while celebrating the beauty and cultural significance of the Pacific region. Readers can expect to be inspired and empowered to reconnect with nature and engage in the ongoing fight for environmental justice amidst the challenges of climate change.



Recommendation
from Head of School
Daniel Rubenstein



Reset: How to Change What's Not Working

By Dan Heath

This New York Times Best Seller is the latest work by Dan Heath, who co-authored several of the most influential business and organizational change books such as *Switch* and *The Power of Moments*. In *Reset*, Professor Heath recommends finding small "leverage points" that can have huge impact. This is our official leadership read for 2025-2026. Please join in the conversation.

OTHER RESOURCES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



- For last year's ISB Summer Reading List, click [here](#).
- Our Korean Book Club's 10 recommended reads are [here](#).
- Our librarians' list of recommended summer reading for Middle School students is [here](#).
- Our librarians' list of recommended summer reading for High School students is [here](#).