Read a minimum of THREE books this summer.

- **Book 1:** ALL rising ninth graders must read *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. Please read this book in August so it's fresh in your mind.
- **Book 2:** Choose your second book from the list below.
- **Book 3:** Choose at least ONE other book based on personal preferences (it may be from this list but does not need to be).

Bring paper copies of all books to the first week of school and be prepared for an assessment on them.

The Lines We Cross **by Randa Abdel-Fattah.** *Realistic fiction. 2017.* In Australia, Michael's parents lead an anti-immigrant movement whilst Mina's family are Afghani immigrants. The pair's mutual attraction raises problems of family and identity.

Speak **by Laurie Halse Anderson.** *Realistic fiction. 2009.* A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school, a year that brings her great struggle and, ultimately, growth.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings **by Maya Angelou.** *Nonfiction; memoir; classic. 1969.* Angelou chronicles her childhood in 1930s rural Arkansas, including trauma she endured and the strength she gained from her grandmother and other elders.

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier **by Ishmael Beah.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 2007.* In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them.

Going Bovine **by Libba Bray.** *Fantasy fiction. 2009.* Cameron Smith, a disaffected sixteen-year-old, is diagnosed with "mad cow" disease and sets off on a road trip with a video gaming dwarf and a yard gnome in hopes of finding a cure.

The Jade Peony **by Wayson Choy.** *Historical fiction. 1998.* In pre-WWII Vancouver, Liang, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, befriends a retired railroader who encourages her to tap dance, while her brothers also discover their identities.

My Losing Season **by Pat Conroy.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 2002.* The author reflects on his days at a South Carolina military college. He recalls his love of basketball and its value to him as a means of self-expression.

The Count of Monte Cristo **by Alexandre Dumas.** *Adventure fiction; classic. 1844.* Edmond Dantes, a young sailor who is falsely imprisoned, escapes and assumes a new identity on the island of Monte Cristo.

The Diary of a Young Girl **by Anne Frank.** *Nonfiction; memoir; classic. 1945.* The journal of a Jewish girl describes the joys and torments of daily life through two years spent in hiding with her family during the Nazi occupation of Holland.

The Ocean at the End of the Lane **by Neil Gaiman.** *Fantasy fiction. 2013.* When a middle-aged man returns to his childhood home in Sussex, England, for a funeral, he remembers eerie childhood events relating to the neighbor girl who promised to protect him.

A Lesson Before Dying **by Ernest J. Gaines.** *Historical fiction. 1994.* This novel explores the unlikely friendship and respect that arises between two African American men, one a teacher and the other an inmate on death row.

Symptoms of Being Human **by Jeff Garvin.** *Realistic fiction. 2016.* Riley is a genderfluid teen who, at the suggestion of their therapist, begins an anonymous blog about their trans experiences and frustrations. When their blog goes viral, Riley begins to attract attention--both good and bad. (Content warnings for online/offline bullying and homophobic/transphobic slurs.)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time **by Mark Haddon.** *Realistic fiction. 2003.* Christopher, a mathematically gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secrets about his mother.

My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins & Fenway Park **by Steve Kluger.** *Realistic fiction. 2008.* Told in alternating perspectives, this is the humorous and touching story of ninth-grade best friends T.C. and Augie's most excellent year of friendship and discovery.

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster **by Jon Krakauer.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 1997.* A definitive account of the deadliest season in the history of Mount Everest; a step by step journey from Kathmandu to the mountain's deadly summit.

Girl in Translation **by Jean Kwok**. *Realistic fiction. 2010.* Follows the life of a girl and her mother who emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn.

Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer **by Alberto Ledesma.** *Graphic nonfiction; memoir. 2017.* A heartfelt, humorous, realistic first-person account of life as an undocumented immigrant in an American city.

March Books II and III **by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell.** *Graphic nonfiction; memoir. 2015.* A graphic novel of John Lewis' first-person experiences in the civil rights movement. A continuation of *March Book I.*

We Were Liars **by E. Lockhart.** *Mystery fiction. 2014.* Summering on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.

How it Went Down **by Kekla Magoon.** *Realistic fiction.* 2015. This book focuses on the aftermath of the shooting death of a black teenage boy. The author assumes 18 different perspectives within the community, exploring the ramifications of racism and violence.

Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen **by Christopher McDougall.** *Nonfiction; sports. 2009.* An outsider who befriends the Tarahumara Indians, leading to a running event between the tribesmen and American athletes, including an ultramarathoner, a surfer, and others.

The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness **by Sy Montgomery.** *Nonfiction. 2015.* National Book Award Finalist. Naturalist Montgomery joyously recounts her adventures with octopuses and their wonders.

Run **by Ann Patchett.** *Realistic fiction. 2007.* Set over a period of twenty-four hours and in various locations across Boston, *Run* explores the lives of a complex family and the lengths parents will go to keep their children safe.

My Name is Asher Lev **by Chaim Potok.** *Classic fiction. 1972.* When his uncle dies, orthodox Jew Asher Lev, a loner with artistic aspirations, must return to his native Brooklyn, where his art causes conflicts with his family and community.

Dodger **by Terry Pratchett.** *Adventure fiction. 2002.* In an alternative version of Victorian London, a seventeen-year-old Dodger, a cunning and cheeky street urchin, rises in life when he saves a mysterious girl, meets Charles Dickens, and foils Sweeney Todd.

Long Way Down **by Jason Reynolds** *Realistic fiction; novel in verse. 2017.* Determined to avenge his 19-year-old brother's death, 15-year-old Will wants to kill the person he's certain is the murderer, but it's a long way down in the elevator.

X: A Novel **by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon.** *Historical fiction. 2015.* Recounts the childhood of civil rights leader Malcolm X to his imprisonment at age twenty, when he found the faith that would lead him towards activism and justice.

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe **by Benjamin Alire Sáenez.** *Realistic fiction. 2014.* Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. The two of them begin a friendship that lasts a lifetime. A story of coming of age and coming out.

Betsey Brown: A Novel **by Ntozake Shange.** *Historical fiction. 1985.* Betsey is an African American seventh-grader growing up in St. Louis. This novel is based closely on the history of the school desegregation and civil rights movements in America.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn **by Betty Smith.** *Classic fiction. 1943.* A novel based in part on the author's life, this book charts the coming-of-age of Francie in a hardscrabble part of Brooklyn where Francie struggles and grows.

The Scorpio Races **by Maggie Stiefvater.** *Fantasy fiction. 2011.* Nineteen-year-old returning champion Sean Kendrick competes against Puck Connolly, the first girl ever to ride in the annual Scorpio Races.

The Age of Miracles: A Novel **by Karen Thompson Walker.** *Science fiction. 2012.* Earth's rotation has suddenly begun to slow, posing a catastrophic threat to all life. How is young Julia supposed to navigate growing up in such a harsh reality?

Code Name Verity **by Elizabeth Wein.** *Historical fiction. 2012.* In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage.