Read a minimum of THREE books this summer.

- **Book 1:** ALL rising tenth graders must read *1984* by George Orwell. Please read this book in August so it's fresh in your mind. You'll discuss the book in both History and English classes.
- **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.

***Maya's Notebook* by Isabel Allende.** *Realistic fiction. 2013.* After a recent loss, Maya escapes her downward spiral of drugs, alcohol, and petty crime to a remote Chilean island where she unravels the mysteries of her family and her life.

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.** *Science fiction; dystopian. 1985.* In what was once the United States, now called the Republic of Gilead, the ruling class reacts to social unrest and a declining birth rate with extremely repressive policies.

***Emma* by Jane Austen.** *Classic fiction; humor. 1815.* In the provincial world of Highbury, Emma Woodhouse plays matchmaker, sometimes with unintended consequences.

***Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan* by Shrabani Basu.** *Nonfiction; biography. 2006.* Khan, code named "Madeleine," the first woman wireless transmitter in WWII, was trained by Britain's SOE and assumed the most dangerous resistance post in underground Paris.

***The Little Girls* by Elizabeth Bowen.** *Classic fiction; adventure. 1964.* In 1914, three eleven-year-old girls buried a box in a thicket on the coast of England shortly before World War I sent their lives on divergent paths. Nearly fifty years later, their paths cross again.

***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte.** *Classic fiction. 1847.* Jane, a plain and penniless orphan in nineteenth-century England, accepts employment as a governess and soon finds herself in love with her melancholy employer, a man with a terrible secret. (Note: those who read *Jane Eyre* could consider reading its modern heir, *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys afterwards; see below.)

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte.** *Classic fiction. 1848.* The passionate love story of stubborn Cathy and wild-as-the-wind Heathcliff in the rugged land of the Yorkshire moors has been a favorite since its publication.

***Possession* by A.S. Byatt.** *Historical fiction; mystery/thriller. 1990.* Booker Prize winner. Interweaves two stories: in one, two scholars of opposing viewpoints discover a potential affair between two Victorian poets, one a married man and the other famously in a committed lesbian relationship. In the other story, we meet the poets themselves and learn the beautiful truth.

***The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* by Becky Chambers.** *Science fiction. 2014.* Follow a motley crew on an exciting journey through space–and one adventurous young explorer who discovers the meaning of family in the far reaches of the universe–in this light-hearted space opera that explores family, gender, and morality.

***The Night Tiger* by Yangsze Choo.** *Historical fiction; fantasy; mystery. 2020.* The fates of a dance hall girl and an orphan boy entangle over an old Chinese superstition about men who turn into tigers.

***Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell* by Susanna Clarke.** *Fantasy fiction. 2010.* In 1806, most people believed magic to be dead in England--until the reclusive Mr. Norrell reveals his powers and another magician emerges: the young, daring Jonathan Strange.

***Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe**. *Classic fiction; adventure. 1719.* An Englishman becomes the sole survivor of a shipwreck and lives for nearly thirty years on a deserted island.

A Tale of Two Cities **by Charles Dickens.** *Classic fiction. 1859.* "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." Thus begins the tale of Sydney Carton, a disreputable lawyer, and his involvement in the French Revolution.

Little Brother **by Cory Doctorow.** *Science fiction. 2008.* In San Francisco, having been interrogated for days by officials of a police state that has emerged after a terrorist attack, seventeen-year-old Marcus decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

Rebecca **by Daphne du Maurier.** *Classic fiction; suspense. 1938.* The second Mrs. de Winter narrates the haunting events surrounding her marriage to Maxim de Winter and her growing obsession with his mysterious first wife, the beautiful, now dead Rebecca.

The Vanishing Act of Esmé Lennox **by Maggie O'Farrell.** *Historical fiction. 2008.* Esmé, a girl sent to an asylum at the age of 16, is forgotten by her family–until the asylum is shuttered and someone must take care of her.

The Eyre Affair **by Jasper Fforde.** *Fantasy fiction; humor. 2001.* Thursday Next works in Literary Detection in a surreal version of Great Britain, circa 1985, where time travel and cloning are commonplace.

A Room with a View **by E.M. Forster.** *Classic fiction. 1908.* A charming young English woman is at war with the snobbery of her own class and with her conflicting desires when she finds herself attracted to someone deemed unsuitable for her.

Maurice **by E. M. Forster.** *Classic fiction. 1913/1932/1960.* A tale of love between men in early 20th-century England, it follows Maurice Hall from his school days through university and beyond. It was written in 1913–1914, then revised in 1932 and 1959–1960.

My Brilliant Career **by Miles Franklin.** *Classic fiction*. 1980. A semi-autobiographical novel of a hot-tempered girl growing up in Australia around 1900, who aspires to become a person of note despite the prejudices against women at that time.

Good Omens **by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett.** *Fantasy fiction; humor. 1996.* The world will come to an end next Saturday. Except: a fast-living demon and a fussy angel have grown fond of Earth's mortals and decide to try to stop the Apocalypse.

Cold Comfort Farm **by Stella Gibbons.** *Historical fiction; humor. 1932.* Flora Poste finds herself in a gloomy, overwrought world and proceeds to organize everyone out of their romantic tragedies and into the pleasures of modern life in the 1930s.

These Violent Delights **by Chloe Gong.** *Fantasy fiction. 2020.* Shanghai *Romeo and Juliet* retelling with Chinese gangs.

Our Man in Havana **by Graham Greene.** *Classic fiction; adventure. 1958.* A vacuum cleaner salesman who is short of money accepts an assignment as an M16 agent in Havana, where soon his faked intelligence reports start coming true.

A Certain Justice **by P.D. James.** *Mystery fiction. 1997.* A lawyer is murdered soon after successfully defending her client who was on trial for murder. An investigator learns the client recently became engaged to the lawyer's daughter. Is there a connection?

Unmarriageable **by Soniah Kamal.** *Realistic fiction.* 2019. Set in modern day Pakistan, Alys Binat has sworn never to marry–until an encounter with one Mr. Darsee at a wedding makes her reconsider. A modern retelling of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice.*

Small Island **by Andrea Levy.** *Realistic fiction. 2005.* Hortense Joseph arrives in London from Jamaica in 1948 hoping to start a new life with her husband, but they find themselves struggling to fit into the strange culture of their foreign "motherland."

***Master of Thin Air: Life and Death on the World's Highest Peaks* by Andrew Lock.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 2014.* Opens with a fall down an almost vertical rock ramp and recounts Lock's sixteen-year journey to summit all of the world's eight-thousanders.

***Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel**. *Science fiction. 2014.* In a pandemic-ravaged society, actress Kirsten Raymonde travels with a troupe performing Shakespeare and finds herself in a community in which a prophet will not let anyone leave alive.

***Enduring Love* by Ian McEwan**. *Classic fiction. 1997.* After a chance meeting, Jed Perry begins to stalk author Joe Rose. Driven by religious zeal and misdirected love, the strange young man will slowly unravel each strand of Joe's life.

***Black Swan Green* by David Mitchell.** *Historical fiction. 2006.* Tracks a single year in the life of thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor in a Worcestershire village in 1982 as the Cold War is coming near an end in England.

***V for Vendetta* by Alan Moore.** *Graphic novel.* 1990. A classic of the genre, set in an imagined future England that has given itself over to fascism.

***Gods of Jade and Shadow* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia.** *Fantasy fiction. 2019.* The Mayan god of death sends a young woman on a harrowing, life-changing journey in this one-of-a-kind fairy tale inspired by Mexican folklore.

***The Cat's Table* by Michael Ondaatje.** *Historical fiction. 2011.* Michael, now an adult, recalls the three-week long sea voyage he took as a boy in the early 1950s. During the trip across the Indian Ocean the boy meets a variety of characters on board.

***White is for Witching* by Helen Oyeyemi.** *Mystery fiction. 2014.* Sixteen-year-old Miranda struggles against the menacing haunted house she inhabits and a rare eating disease that causes her to eat non-edible substances.

***My Name is Red* by Orhan Pamuk.** *Historical fiction. 2002.* A fiendishly devious mystery set amid the splendor and religious intrigue of sixteenth-century Istanbul by a celebrated contemporary Turkish novelist.

***Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.** *Classic fiction. 1948.* The story of a Zulu pastor and his son under white rule in South Africa.

***Tamar: A Novel of Espionage, Passion, and Betrayal* by Mal Peet.** *Historical Fiction. 2010.* When her grandfather dies, Tamar inherits a box of coded messages. Out of the past comes another Tamar, a resistance fighter from Nazi-occupied Holland.

***Nation* by Terry Pratchett.** *Fantasy fiction; alternate history. 2008.* After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, set about rebuilding their community.

***Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys.** *Classic fiction; adventure.1966.* Postcolonial novel centered upon Bertha, the Jamaican madwoman in the attic in Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre,* to which this novel could make an interesting follow-up read.

***East, West* by Salman Rushdie**. *Historical fiction; short stories. 1995.* Nine stories that reveal the oceanic distances and the unexpected intimacies between East and West.

***Sugar in the Blood: A Family's Story of Slavery and Empire* by Andrea Stuart.** *Nonfiction; history. 2013.* Stuart uses her own family's Caribbean story as the pivot for this epic tale of migration, colonialism, slavery, settlement, and survival.

***Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift.** *Classic fiction; adventure; satire. 1726.* A classic satire that recounts four remarkable journeys of a ship's surgeon, Lemuel Gulliver, including one stay in a land of six-inch-high people and another in a land of giants.