

IGSS Summer Reading 2026-2027

Our goal for summer reading this year is to kick off a celebration of all the reading that goes on among our IGSS community. Our plan is to highlight independent reading throughout the year in a visible way within our IGSS space. The reading that you complete over the summer (all of it!) will help to launch that effort. Looking for suggestions on what to read? Check out the IGSS recommended reading list on the other side of this flyer.

There are two threads to our IGSS reading experience over the summer. For the first **REQUIRED** thread, if you responded to the email asking you to rank your preference, you got either your first or second choice. If not, we put you in a group. [Here](#) are the assigned groups. When we return, we will kick off the year with some small group discussions.

The second thread is all-choice, all the time. To complete this **REQUIRED** thread, you just need to keep track of the books you read over the summer. Take a photo of yourself with the book when you finish it. You need to complete at least two. The books for this thread can be fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, poetry, a play, an audio book, or whatever. Be ready to talk about what you've read on your return.

REQUIRED BOOK — Your group is [here](#) (you're only reading one of the books below)

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver (545 pages):

From Amazon: The story is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. The novel is set against one of the most dramatic political chronicles of the twentieth century: the Congo's fight for independence from Belgium, the murder of its first elected prime minister, the CIA coup to install his replacement, and the insidious progress of a world economic order that robs the fledgling African nation of its autonomy.

The Overstory by Richard Powers (512 pages)

From Amazon: *The Overstory*, winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, is a sweeping, impassioned work of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation of—and paean to—the natural world. From the roots to the crown and back to the seeds, Richard Powers's twelfth novel unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late twentieth-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. There is a world alongside ours—vast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, magnificently inventive, and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe.

Dune by Frank Herbert (704 pages)

From Bookshop.org: "Frank Herbert's classic masterpiece—a triumph of the imagination and one of the bestselling science fiction novels of all time. Set on the desert planet Arrakis, *Dune* is the story of Paul Atreides—who would become known as Muad'Dib—and of a great family's ambition to bring to fruition humankind's most ancient and unattainable dream. A stunning blend of adventure and mysticism, environmentalism and politics, *Dune* won the first Nebula Award, shared the Hugo Award, and formed the basis of what is undoubtedly the grandest epic in science fiction."

Sure, you might have seen Zendaya and Timothée in the movies, but the book is bonkers!

Station Eleven, by Emily St. John Mandel (333 pages)

From Goodreads: An audacious, darkly glittering novel set in the eerie days of civilization's collapse—the spellbinding story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity.

White Oleander, by Janet Fitch (480 pages)

From Amazon: Everywhere hailed as a novel of rare beauty and power, *White Oleander* tells the unforgettable story of Ingrid, a brilliant poet imprisoned for murder, and her daughter, Astrid, whose odyssey through a series of Los Angeles foster homes—each its own universe, with its own laws, its own dangers, its own hard lessons to be learned—becomes a redeeming and surprising journey of self-discovery.

INDEPENDENT READING FREE FOR ALL (2 books minimum; don't forget the selfie)

- Finish a minimum of two books that you choose on your own.
- Be ready to share what you've read with your IGSS peers.

IGSS RECOMMENDED READING

Need a suggestion? Check out some of the books on these lists:

- [IGSS Teacher Recommendations List](#)
- A Pulitzer-prize winning book ([fiction](#) or [nonfiction](#))
- This [interactive list](#) and another list [here](#)