2019 Summer Reading List for a Community of Readers

Drew Slemp ’22

First Graduating Class 1964

North Cross School
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“A Note on Content:” Parents have varying standards for the material they think appropriate for their children. All books in the North Cross School Summer Reading List have either been read by a member of the faculty or have been recommended for student reading by reputable educational institutions or other independent schools. Books marked “Mature Themes” contain material some parents may think inappropriate for some younger readers. If you have a question about a particular book, please research it on your own or check with your child’s teacher.

“Be it grand or slender, burrowing, blasting, or refusing to sanctify; whether it laughs out loud or is a cry without an alphabet, the choice word, the chosen silence, unmolested language surges toward knowledge, not its destruction.”

~Toni Morrison

Rachel Holmes ’19
Message from the English Department

We all know that reading is one of the most critical components of a child's success in school and in life. As such, classroom reading instruction at North Cross begins with the youngest children in junior kindergarten and continues through the literature-based English classes in the Upper School. Of course, you were reading to your children even before they started school, before they could identify letters, probably before they could even recite the alphabet or understand the stories. Parents who read to their children from a very early age do so because they know that reading skills are valuable for practical reasons; but they also understand the more intrinsic rewards which come from shared reading time.

Before children are literate, reading time provides a wonderful opportunity to bond with your young child while helping them to increase their vocabulary and comprehension skills. Most children have a particular book they ask their parents to read over and over, being just as enthralled with the fiftieth rendition as they were with the first. As these children get older, they remember these stories and this special time spent reading.

Even after children become proficient readers and begin to read to themselves, books can still give parents a way to connect with their growing reader. Many of the books that your child reads in his or her formative years will be ones with which you are familiar. You may have read them in school yourself. These books can provide topics of conversation for family dinners, or they can provide an opportunity to discuss shared reading experiences. Did you also read that book in sixth grade? Did you experience the same reactions that your child is experiencing?

The texts chosen for the English curriculum are challenging ones meant to improve students' reading skills, but they are also meant to broaden students' horizons. They will read about other cultures. They will learn about other time periods and ways of thinking. They will be introduced to new ways of seeing their own, familiar world.

As we strive to make reading a pleasurable, year-round habit, we offer this summer reading list as an opportunity for students to choose their own adventure. We hope that they will come back from the summer with new ideas and a new love for reading, and we encourage you to share in their journey.

The North Cross School English Department
Lower School Reading List

“Many places you would like to see are just off the map and many things you want to know are just out of sight or a little beyond your reach. But someday you’ll reach them all, for what you learn today...will help you discover all the wonderful secrets of tomorrow.”

~The Phantom Tollbooth
Rising Junior Kindergarten 3, 4, & 5

The JK-3 and JK-4 teachers are excited to introduce a suggested reading list for our youngest students. There are no required books for JK-3 or JK-4. The books on this list have been selected to represent a variety of subjects, writing styles, and illustration styles. We hope they will offer you and your child the opportunity to explore ideas as well as simply enjoy reading time.

Additional Resources:

http://www.starfall.com
http://www.the-best-childrens-books.org/
http://www.readbrightly.com/

Hancock Library website:
https://northcross.libguides.com/hancocklibrary

Ashburn, Boni; *I Had a Favorite Dress*
Ashman, Linda; *Castles, Caves, and Honeycombs*
Atinuke; *Baby Goes to Market*
Ayres, Katherine; *Up, Down, and Around*
Baker, Keith; *L M N O Peas*
Berkes, Marianne; *Over in the Jungle*
Bunting, Eve; *Flower Garden*
Carle, Eric; *The Mixed-Up Chameleon; The Very Busy Spider*
Child, Lauren; *The New Small Person*
Cronin, Doreen; *Click, Clack, Splish, Splash: A Counting Adventure*
Dodd, Emma; *Dog's Colorful Day*
Ehlert, Lois; *Waiting for Wings*
Emberley, Rebecca; *Chicken Little*
Falwell, Cathryn; *Turtle Splash!: Countdown at the Pond*
Fleming, Denise; *Alphabet Under Construction*
Hall, Michael; *It’s an Orange Aardvark*
Haughton, Chris; *Little Owl Lost*
Henkes, Kevin; *Birds*
Ho, Minfong; *Hush!*
Hood, Susan; *Spike, the Mixed-up Monster*
Lewis, Kevin; *My Truck is Stuck!*
Martin, Jr, Bill; *Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See?*
Massie, Diane Redfield; *The Baby Beebee Bird*
McLeod, Bob; *Superhero A B C*
Murphy, Stuart; *Animals on Board; Just Enough Carrots*
Root, Phyllis; *One Duck Stuck*
Rosenthal, Amy Krouse; *Little Pea*
Shannon, David; *Duck on a Bike*
Smith, Alex T.; *Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion*
Stojic, Manya; *Rain*
Ward, Jennifer; *Somewhere in the Ocean*
Wells, Rosemary; *My Very First Mother Goose*
Willems, Mo; *Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*
Wood, Audrey; *The Napping House*
Rising Kindergarteners

Requirements:

_A Color of His Own_ by Leo Lionni

Parents are encouraged to read to their children as much as possible over the summer. Shared reading time with your child supports language development and is one of the best preparations for independent reading.

Accountability:

Students should draw a picture of their favorite part of _A Color of His Own_. Students should bring their picture with them on the first day of school.

Additional Resources:

http://www.readingrockets.org/books/awardwinners
http://www.readbrightly.com/
https://readaloudrevival.com/blog

Hancock Library website:
https://northcross.libguides.com/hancocklibrary

Aardema, Verna; _Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain_
Andros, Camille; _Charlotte the Scientist is Squished_
Arnold, Ted; _Super Fly Guy_
Base, Graeme; _The Water Hole_
Brett, Jan; _Town Mouse, Country Mouse_
Carle, Eric; _Mister Seahorse_
Cottin, Menena; _The Black Book of Colors_
Diesen, Deborah; _The Pout-Pout Fish_
Donaldson, Julia; _Charlie Cook’s Favorite Book_
Edwards, Pamela Duncan; _Some Smug Slug_
Ehler, Lois; _Mole’s Hill_
Fisher, Valerie; _Ellsworth’s Extraordinary Electric Ears_
Fox, Dorothea Warren; _Miss Twiggly’s Tree_
Giganti, Jr. Paul; _Each Orange Had Eight Slices: A Counting Book_
Gilman, Phoebe; _Something From Nothing_
Gravett, Emily; _The Odd Egg; Meerkat Mail_
Gray, Kes; _Frog on a Log_
Grossman, Bill; _My Little Sister Ate One Hare_
Jenkins, Steve; _What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?_
Karlin, Nurit; _The Fat Cat Sat on the Mat_
Lionni, Leo; _Swimmy_
Mayer, Mercer; _Little Critter_ (series)
McCloskey, Robert; _Blueberries for Sal_
Moss, Lloyd; _Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin!_
Murphy, Stuart; _Captain Invincible and the Space Shapes; Elevator Magic_
Numeroff, Laura; _If You Give a (Mouse, Pig, Moose, etc) . . . series_
Pinczes, Elinor J.; _One Hundred Hungry Ants_
Rosenthal, Amy Krouse; _Cookies: Bite Size Life Lessons_
Seuss, Dr.; _Green Eggs & Ham_
Shaw, Nancy; _Sheep in a Jeep_
Spires, Ashley; _The Most Magnificent Thing_
Steiner, Joan; _Look-Alikes, Jr._
Ungerer, Tomi; _Crictor_
Vamos, Samantha R.; _The Cazuela That the Farm Maiden Stirred_
Viorst, Judith; _Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day_
Wiesner, David; _Flotsam_
Willems, Mo; _Elephant & Piggie_ (series)
Rising First Graders

Requirements:

Big Al by Andrew Clements

Parents are encouraged to read to their children as much as possible over the summer. Shared reading is one of the best preparations for independent reading.

Accountability:

Students should create a list of the books read over the summer, including the title and author of each book. Students should bring their list on the first day of school.

Hancock Library website:
https://northcross.libguides.com/ Hancocklibrary

All Aboard Reading (series)
DK Readers (series)
I Can Read (series)
Let’s Read and Find Out (series)
Ready-To-Read (series)
Step Into Reading (series)
Ada, Alma Flor; I Love Saturdays y domingos
Adler, David; A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln (biography series)
Aston, Dianna Hutts; An Egg is Quiet; A Butterfly is Patient
Beaty, Andrea; Rosie Revere, Engineer
Brett, Jan; The Mitten
Cannon, Janell; Stellaluna
Cronin, Doreen; Duck for President
Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee; Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folktale
Eastman, Philip D.; Go, Dog. Go!; Are You My Mother?
Falconer, Ian; Olivia
Freeman, Don; Corduroy
Gilani-Williams, Fawzia; Nabeel’s New Pants: An Eid Tale
Henkes, Kevin; Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse
Jeffers, Oliver; Stuck
Jenkins, Steve; I See a Kookaburra!
Kraus, Robert; Leo the Late Bloomer
Lo, Ginnie; Auntie Yang’s Great Soybean Picnic
McCloskey, Robert; Make Way for Ducklings
McGovern, Ann; Stone Soup
Nargi, Lela; The Honeybee Man
Polacco, Patricia; Chicken Sunday
Prelutsky, Jack; The New Kid on the Block (poetry)
Prelutsky, Jack (compiler); The Random House Book of Poetry for Children
Rylant, Cynthia; The Relatives Came
Seuss, Dr.; Hop on Pop!
Slobodkina, Esphyr; Caps for Sale
Steig, William; Sylvester and the Magic Pebble
Valdez, Patricia; Joan Proctor, Dragon Doctor
Yolen, Jane; The Emperor and the Kite
Rising Second Graders

Requirements:

The Little House
by Virginia Lee Burton
Two books from this list.
One book of choice.

Accountability:

Students should create a list of the books read over the summer, including the title and author of each book. They should also choose their favorite book and draw a scene from the story. Students should bring their list and drawing on the first day of school.

Hancock Library website:
https://northcross.libguides.com/ Hancocklibrary

Adler, David; Cam Jansen (series)
Anderson, C.W.; Billy and Blaze
Barrett, Judy; Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs
Bemelmans, Ludwig; Madeline’s Rescue
Blume, Judy; The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo
Blume, Judy; Freckle Juice
Burns, Marilyn; The Greedy Triangle
Chaconas, Dori; Cork and Fuzz (series)
Cleary, Beverly; The Mouse and the Motorcycle
Clements, Andrew; Dogku
Cole, Joanna; The Magic School Bus (series)
Coven, Wanda; Heidi Heckelbeck (series)
Davis, Aubrey; A Hen for Izzy Pippik
Davis, Kathryn Gibbs; Mr. Ferris and His Wheel
DiCamillo, Kate; Mercy Watson (series)
DiPucchio, Kelly; Grace for President
Keats, Ezra Jack; The Snowy Day
Kline, Suzy; Horrible Harry and the Goog
Lichtenheld, Tom; Cloudette
Lobel, Arnold; Frog and Toad All Year
McCloskey, Robert; One Morning in Maine
Minarik, Else; Little Bear’s Friend
Myller, Rolf; How Big is a Foot?
Osborne, Mary Pope; Magic Tree House (series)
Page, Robin; How to Clean a Hippopotamus
Parish, Peggy; Amelia Bedelia
Sendak, Maurice; Where the Wild Things Are
Silverstein, Shel; A Light in the Attic
West, Tracey; Dragon Masters (series)
Winter, Jeanette; The World is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid
Yolen, Jane; The Seeing Stick
Zelinsky, Paul; Rapunzel
Zepeda, Gwendolyn; Growing Up with Tamales/Los tamales de Ana
Rising Third Graders

Requirements:

The Hundred Dresses
by Eleanor Estes
Two books from this list.
One book of choice.

Accountability:

Students should create a “picture packet” of the books they have read. These packets should consist of a cover and four illustrations which depict one scene from each book the student reads. At the top of each picture, write the title and author and one sentence describing the scene. Each picture should be drawn in detail and colored. Please bring the required book and “picture packet” on the first day of school. Books will be used to complete in-class assignments.

Hancock Library website:
https://northcross.libguides.com/hancocklibrary

Arkin, Alan; The Lemming Condition
Atwater, Richard; Mr. Popper’s Penguins
Bulla, Clyde; Shoeshine Girl
Cleary, Beverly; Runaway Ralph, Ralph S. Mouse; Ramona Quimby, Age 8
Clements, Andrew; Frindle
Creech, Sharon; Saving Winslow
Dahl, Roald; Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Gannett, Ruth Stiles; My Father’s Dragon
Gardiner, John Reynolds; Stone Fox
Grahame, Kenneth; The Reluctant Dragon
Hunter, Erin; Warriors (series)
Hurwitz, Johanna; Baseball Fever
Kennedy, Caroline; A Family of Poems
Konigsburg, E. L.; From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
Lawson, Robert; Rabbit Hill
Lindgren, Astrid; Pippi Longstocking
Look, Lenore; Alvin Ho (series)
MacDonald, Betty; Mrs. Piggle Wiggle
Mills, Claudia; 7 \times 9 = Trouble!; Fractions = Trouble!
Patterson, Nancy Ruth; The Shiniest Rock of All
Pennypacker, Sara; Clementine (series)
Scieszka, John; Time Warp Trio (series)
Sharmat, Margorie Weinman; Nate the Great and the Sticky Case
Smith, Robert K.; Chocolate Fever
Snicket, Lemony; A Series of Unfortunate Events (series)
Sobol, Donald; Encyclopedia Brown (series)
Spinelli, Jerry; Third Grade Angels
Taylor, Sidney; All of a Kind Family
Warner, Gertrude Chandler; The Box Car Children (series)
Warner, Sally; Ellray Jakes (series)
White, E. B.; Charlotte’s Web
Rising Fourth Graders

Requirements:

Because of Winn-Dixie
by Kate DiCamillo
Two books from this list.
One book of choice.

Accountability:

Students should fill out the “Story Map” forms given to them by their teacher at the end of the school year for Because of Winn-Dixie and one other book that they have read. These forms are also available in the Lower School section of the Hancock Library website. Students will turn in their two Story Map forms on the first day of school.

Hancock Library website:
https://northcross.libguides.com/hancocklibrary

Aesop; Aesop’s Fables
American Girls Collection; various authors
August, John; Arlo Finch in the Valley of Fire
Avi; Night Journeys
Banks, Lynn Reid; The Indian in the Cupboard
Blume, Judy; Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing
Brink, Carolyn; Caddie Woodlawn
Brown, Peter; The Wild Robot; The Wild Robot Escapes
Burnett, Frances Hodgson; A Little Princess
Cleary, Beverly; Dear Mr. Henshaw
DiTerlizzi, Tony; The Spiderwick Chronicles (series)
Dixon, Franklin; The Hardy Boys (series)
Eager, Edward; Half Magic
English, Karen; The Carver Chronicles (series)
Enright, Elizabeth; Thimble Summer
Fitzhugh, Louise; Harriet the Spy
Fleischman, Sid; The Whipping Boy
Fritz, Jean; Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt
Fritz, Jean; Stonewall
Fritz, Jean; And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?
Fritz, Jean; Why Don’t You Get a Horse, Sam Adams?
Fritz, Jean; Will You Sign Here, John Hancock?
Fritz, Jean; Can’t You Make Them Behave, King George?
Fritz, Jean; Who’s That Stepping on

Plymouth Rock?
Grahame, Kenneth; The Wind in the Willows
Harness, Cheryl; The Trailblazing Life of Daniel Boone: How Early Americans Took to the Road
Keene, Carolyn; Nancy Drew (series)
Kehret, Peg; Earthquake Terror
L’Engle, Madeline; A Wrinkle in Time
Langton, Jane; The Fledgling
Lawson, Robert; Ben and Me
MacLachlan, Patricia; Sarah Plain and Tall
Milne, A.A.; The House at Pooh Corner
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds; Shiloh
Nelson, Kadir; We Are the Ship: the Story of Negro League Baseball
Rockwell, Thomas; How to Eat Fried Worms
Rowling, J. K.; Harry Potter (series)
Sachar, Louis; Holes
Selden, George; The Cricket in Times Square
Sewell, Anna; Black Beauty
Speare, Elizabeth George; The Bronze Bow
Sweet, Melissa; Some Writer!: The Story of E. B. White
Taylor, Theodore; The Cay
Rising Fifth Graders

Requirements:

Boy of the Painted Cave
by Justin Denzel
Two books from this list.
One book of choice.

Accountability:

For each of the four books read, the student must complete the form given to them at the end of the school year. The forms ask the students their opinions about characters and plot points and also ask them to deconstruct each book by its story elements. There is a different form for fiction and nonfiction books. These forms are also available in the Lower School section of the Hancock Library website.

Hancock Library website:
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Alexander, Lloyd; The Chronicles of Prydain
This award-winning fantasy series chronicles the adventures of Taran the Assistant Pig-Keeper on a journey through the magical land of Prydain.

Auxier, Jonathan; Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster
The monster in this story is not what you might expect. Sweep is an adventure about friendship and wonder and all the ways the sweep and her monster save each other as they build a new life.

Avi; The Good Dog
This vividly imagined story is told from the perspective of McKinley, a sled dog whose life changes after he meets a wolf.

Bendick, Jeanne; Along Came Galileo; Archimedes and the Door of Science
Bendick writes books about science for children and has a remarkable ability to express complex concepts in language that is interesting for younger readers.

Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss; Book Scavenger
The Book Scavenger game has been a constant in twelve-year-old Emily’s life through her family’s many moves. When Book Scavenger’s creator is attacked, can Emily and her friend solve the mystery and save his new game?

Birdsall, Jeanne; The Penderwicks
(series)
This charming National Book Award winner is the first in a series about the Penderwick family. The Penderwick sisters are spending the summer on the grounds of a beautiful estate where they enjoy many adventures.

Carter, Dorothy Sharp; His Majesty, Queen Hatshepsut
This is a fictional account based on the life of the real Pharaoh Hatshepsut, a woman who defied extraordinary odds and ruled Upper and Lower Egypt for more than twenty years.

DiCamillo, Kate; The Magician’s Elephant
DiCamillo has crafted a timeless story in which an orphan named Peter Augustus Duchene is told that his fate is tied to an elephant that has inexplicably fallen from the sky.

Forbes, Esther; Johnny Tremain
Johnny is a hardworking artisan’s apprentice who becomes a patriot at the outset of the American Revolution.

Harness, Cheryl; The Remarkable Rough-Riding Life of Teddy Roosevelt
This vibrant portrait of Teddy Roosevelt is further enhanced by Cheryl Harness’s amazing illustrations as well as the timeline she adds along the bottom of each page.

Henry, Marguerite; King of the Wind
This Newbery Medal winner tells the story of the bond between a mute stable boy and the stallion who later became the Godolphin Arabian.

Horvath, Polly; Everything on a Waffle
After her parents are lost at sea, Primrose lives in a small Canadian town where the local restaurant serves everything on waffles! This is a book filled with humor and wisdom as well as Primrose’s quiet faith that her parents will return.

Jacques, Brian; Redwall (series)
Redwall Abbey is the setting of the

Boy of the Painted Cave by Justin Denzel
Two books from this list.
One book of choice.

Requirements:

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Jacques, Brian; Redwall (series)
Redwall Abbey is the setting of the
Rising Fifth Graders (continued)

first book in this epic adventure series which is filled with animal characters.
Jonell, Lyne; *The Secret of Zoom*
This entertaining and imaginative book describes the adventures of Christina Adnoid and an orphan named Taft as they try to unravel the mystery behind a secret lab.
Justor, Norton; *The Phantom Tollbooth*
Milo is bored by everything until a mysterious tollbooth appears in his bedroom. Giving it a try takes him on an adventure that is full of twists and turns and a host of unusual characters along the way!
LaFevers, R. L.; *Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos* (series)
Theodosia Throckmorton's father is the head curator at the Museum of Legends and Antiquities in London, but it's Theodosia who must use nearly forgotten Egyptian magic to remove the ancient curses that threaten the museum's employees.
L'Engle, Madeline; *Time Trilogy (A Wrinkle in Time; A Wind in the Door; A Swiftly Tilting Planet)*
Meg and her brother battle a dark force that is threatening the universe in these science fiction/fantasy classics.
Lin, Grace; *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*
In this beautifully illustrated Newbery Honor book, a young girl named Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon in an effort to change her family's fortune.
Magoon, Kekla; *The Season of Styx Malone*
Brothers Caleb and Bobby Gene meet Styx Malone one summer. Friendship, madcap adventures, betrayal, and forgiveness ensue as part of this Coretta Scott King Award winner.
McAnulty, Stacy; *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*
A lightning strike when she was eight years old gave Lucy Callahan genius-level math skills, and she's been homeschooled ever since. Now twelve, her grandmother challenges her to attend middle school for one year before she begins college classes.
McDonough, Yona Zeldis; *The Bicycle Spy*
Marcel dreams of competing in the Tour de France, but it's 1942, and the race has been cancelled ever since Germany's occupation of France two years earlier. Now Marcel must use his bicycle to help save his friend's entire family.
McGaw, Eloise Jarvis; *Mara, Daughter of the Nile*
This book describes the adventures of an Egyptian slave girl who undertakes a dangerous assignment as a spy in the royal palace of Thebes.
McMullan, Kate: *Myth-o-Mania* (series)
This fun series includes parodies of a number of Greek myths, all purported to be the "true" story of the gods and goddesses. The puns and wordplay make this a great addition to study of these myths.
Medina, Meg; *Merci Suarez Changes Gears*
Merci Suarez is navigating 6th grade as a scholarship student at Seaward Pines Academy while also beginning to notice that her grandfather, Lolo, is acting strangely. This Newbery Medal winner is a coming-of-age story full of humor and heart.
Napoli, Donna J.; *Treasury of Egyptian Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Monsters, and Mortals*
This beautifully illustrated book of Egyptian mythology also includes sidebars that provide historical, cultural, and geographical context.
Northrup, Michael; *TombQuest* (series)
Alex Sennefer's mom works for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She and her colleagues have discovered the Lost Spells from the Egyptian Book of the Dead, and when she uses one of the spells to save Alex's life, she unknowingly sets in motion a dangerous chain of events.
Paulsen, Gary; *Hatchet*
After the plane thirteen-year-old Brian is on crashes in the Canadian wilderness, he must try to survive with only his wits and a small hatchet.
Salten, Felix; *Bambi: A Life in the Woods*
This classic was published in the 1920s and is quite different from the Disney version. Salten's wonderful story is layered with meaning and not to be missed.
Scieszka, Jon (ed.); *Guys Read: The Sports Pages*
This lively collection of sports stories is written by a variety of authors and includes stories about baseball, football, basketball, hockey, and martial arts.
Verne, Jules; *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*
This classic novel introduces Captain Nemo and his fantastic submarine, the Nautilus. Written in 1870, it is considered one of the earliest science fiction books.
Middle School Reading List

“You’re given the form, but you have to write the sonnet yourself. What you say is completely up to you.”

~A Wrinkle in Time

Anna Todd Kemper ’21
Rising No Ceilings English 6 and 7

**Requirements:**

- **No Ceilings English 6:**
  - *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio
  - *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
  One book from this list.
  One book of choice.

- **No Ceilings English 7:**
  - *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
  - *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansbury
  One book from this list.
  One book of choice.

*If students have a book they would prefer to read that is not on the list, they need to have permission from their English teacher.*

**Accountability:**

Students should complete a Work Comprehension Assessment for each work they read. Work Comprehension Assessment forms are available in the Middle School section of the Hancock Library website. Students should also complete the outline assignment provided. During the first weeks of school, there will be graded assignments on the required reading. On the first day of school, students should bring their Work Comprehension Assessment forms, their outline assignment, and their copies of the two required books for their grade.

**Hancock Library website:**
https://northcross.libguides.com/hancocklibrary

Alexander, Kwame; *The Crossover*
Twins Josh and Jordan are junior high basketball stars in this Newbery Medal winner. Written in verse, this well-crafted story is full of energy, with elements of hip-hop and jazz, and a portrait of a strong family bond.

Anderson, Laurie Halse; *Fever 1793*
This book is based on the actual epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia that killed over 5,000 people in three months. Anderson’s novel is extremely well-researched and the female narrator and supporting characters bring history to life in a compelling and dramatic plot.

Boyne, John; *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*
Bruno is nine years old and the son of a Nazi commandant when his family moves from Berlin to the country. He does not understand what is happening on the other side of the fence where everyone is wearing striped pajamas.

Crane, Stephen; *The Red Badge of Courage*
This small masterpiece was published in 1895 and features a young soldier caught up in an unnamed battle of the American Civil War.

Gibson, William; *The Miracle Worker*
This powerful play depicts the education of Helen Keller and her relationship with her extraordinary teacher, Anne Sullivan.

Gratz, Alan; *Refugee*
This skillfully crafted narrative presents three interconnected stories about resilience and survival. Josef is a Jewish boy who must leave Nazi-controlled Germany with his family. Isabel and
her family must escape Cuba on a raft in 1994. Mahmoud flees the ongoing war in Aleppo, Syria with his family in 2015. This action-packed novel tackles timeless topics like courage, perseverance, and hope.

Hickam, Homer; **Rocket Boys: A Memoir**
This book beautifully captures a time when a band of teenage dreamers in a dying coal mining town placed their sights on the stars. Hickam grew up to be a NASA engineer.

Kelkar, Supriya; **Ahimsa**
Anjali lives in India. It's 1942, and she has just learned that her mother is going to risk her life for the freedom movement. This New Visions Award winner was inspired by the author’s grandmother’s experience working with Gandhi.

L'Engle, Madeline; **A Wrinkle in Time**
In this scientific fantasy, Meg and members of her family embark on a perilous quest through space to find their father.

London, Jack; **The Call of the Wild**
Buck is a pampered house dog who is kidnapped and must learn to survive as a sled dog in the Yukon. Jack London was inspired to write this story after his own experiences during the Klondike Gold Rush.

Steinbeck, John; **The Pearl**
The classic tale of how a priceless pearl brings greed, treachery, and loss to a poor Mexican pearl diver and his family.

Stewart, Trenton Lee; **The Mysterious Benedict Society**
Reynie Muldoon is an eleven-year-old orphan when he becomes one of four children chosen to use their special talents for a secret mission to uncover the mysterious Mr. Curtain’s plans. This book includes dramatic plot twists and unusual characters, along with an underlying theme about the power of media messages.

Tolkien, J.R.R.; **The Trilogy: The Fellowship of the Ring; The Two Towers; The Return of the King**
Both groundbreaking and timeless, Tolkien’s epic recounts the Great War of the Ring in Middle Earth.

Twain, Mark; **The Prince and the Pauper**
It’s 1547, and two boys in London meet by chance at the gates of a palace. The boys switch places, and young Prince Edward learns about the struggles of the commoners in England, while Tom learns what it’s like to be a prince. Published in 1881, this was Mark Twain’s first work of historical fiction.

Verne, Jules; **20,000 Leagues Under the Sea**
This classic novel introduces Captain Nemo and his fantastic submarine, the Nautilus. Written in 1870, it is considered one of the earliest science fiction books.

Wells, H.G.; **The Time Machine**
Follow the Time Traveler as he travels more than 800,000 years into the future to discover what will happen to the human race.

Woodson, Jacqueline; **Brown Girl Dreaming**
In this Newbery Honor book, Woodson creates a memoir in verse, describing what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960’s and 1970’s.
Rising Sixth Graders

**Requirements:**

*Wonder* by R. J. Palacio

Two books from this list.

One book of choice.

If students have a book they would prefer to read that is not on the list, they need to have permission from their English teacher.

**Accountability:**

Students should complete a summary form for each work they read. Summary forms are available in the Middle School section of the Hancock Library website. In addition to completing a summary form for *Wonder*, students should also create a character list for this book and create a list of the five most important events for each part. (There are eight parts, each named for a character.) During the first weeks of school, there will be graded assignments on *Wonder*. On the first day of school, students should bring their completed summary forms, their events list and character list from *Wonder*, and their copy of *Wonder*.

**Hancock Library website:**
https://northcross.libguides.com/hancocklibrary

Alcott, Louisa May; *Little Women*

Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March are four very different sisters who are growing into adulthood during the American Civil War. This classic novel was an instant success when it was published in 1868 and has remained a popular favorite ever since.

Barnhill, Kelly; *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*

This Newbery Medal winner has magic, mystery, a quest, and lots of adventure. A witch, a swamp monster, and a tiny dragon provide humor in this story about what it means to grow up and to find where we belong.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson; *The Secret Garden*

Mary Lennox, a self-centered orphan at age ten, is unhappy and lonely until she goes to live with her uncle and her life changes forever.

Carroll, Lewis; *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass*

In 1865 Charles Lutwidge Dodson (otherwise known as Lewis Carroll) created this fantasy story at the request of three young sisters. His story went on to become one of the most treasured of all time and includes such fantastical characters as the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter, and the Queen of Hearts.

Collins, Suzanne; *Gregor the Overlander* (the *Underland Chronicles* series)

Gregor expects a boring summer before he and his little sister fall through an air vent in their New York City apartment and wind up in an underground world where humans live alongside huge bats, cockroaches, and rats.

Connor, Leslie; *All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook*

Eleven-year-old Perry has always lived with his mother at the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility in Surprise, Nebraska. When a new district attorney discovers this, Perry must move into a foster home.

Creech, Sharon; *Walk Two Moons*

In this Newbery Medal winner, thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle travels from Ohio to Idaho with her grandparents. As they ride along, she entertains them with a story about a girl named Phoebe Winterbottom, a potential lunatic, and a disappearing mother. Salamanca’s own story begins to unfold as she weaves the tale to entertain her grandparents.

DiCamillo, Kate; *Raymie Nightingale*

It’s the summer of 1975, and Raymie has decided it’s all up to her: she must learn to twirl a baton and win the Miss Central Florida Tire Contest so her father will come home. This quirky novel is a 2016 National Book Award finalist.

Flanagan, John; *Ranger’s Apprentice* (series)

The Rangers are a mysterious band who keep the law of the land and serve as spies for the Kingdom of Araluen. Fifteen-year-old Will was orphaned at a young age after the death of his father and becomes an Apprentice Ranger in the first book of this exciting series.

Gemeinhart, Dan; *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*

Coyote and her dad have criss-crossed the United States for five years in an old school bus they have made their home. Along the way, they pick up a crew of
Rising Sixth Graders (continued)

misfit travelers and Coyote learns that going home can often be the hardest journey of all.

George, Jean Craighead; My Side of the Mountain
This Newbery Honor book is about Sam Gribly, who tires of life in the city and runs away to the Catskill Mountains to forge a life of his own.

Jacques, Brian; Redwall (series)
These popular epic adventures are built around an amazing animal world filled with mice, moles, and badgers.

Kadohata, Cynthia; Weedflower
When Pearl Harbor is attacked, the lives of a Japanese-American girl and her family are thrown into chaos.

Konigsburg, E.L.; From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
In this Newbery Medal winner, Claudia and her brother Jamie run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and find an adventure - and a mystery!

L'Engle, Madeline; A Wrinkle in Time
In this scientific fantasy, Meg and members of her family embark on a perilous quest through space to find their father.

Lewis, C.S.; The Chronicles of Narnia (series)
Follow the adventures of four children as they travel repeatedly to the fantasy world of Narnia where everything is far more than it seems.

Lord, Cynthia; Rules
Twelve-year-old Catherine is torn between love for her autistic brother, David, and impatience with the responsibilities he brings. This award-winning book is heartwarming and thought provoking.

Lourie, Peter; Jack London and the Klondike Gold Rush
This is the story of Jack London's part in the Gold Rush of 1897, an adventure that would sow the seeds of his later books White Fang and The Call of the Wild.

Martin, Ann; Rain Reign
Not everyone understands Rose Howard's obsession with homonyms. Rose is the narrator of this heartwarming story of a girl who sees life in black and white and the dog who becomes her beloved companion.

Montgomery, Lucy; Anne of Green Gables
Anne Shirley is a scrawny, red-haired, eleven-year-old orphan who is adopted by an elderly couple and changes their lives forever.

O'Brien, Robert C.; Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh
This Newbery Medal winner includes some unusual lab rats who learn more than the scientists bargain for. Mrs. Frisby is a widowed mouse with a sick child who must turn to these rats for assistance.

Peck, Richard; A Long Way from Chicago
Set in the 1930s, this book follows Joe and his sister, Mary Alice, during one of their annual visits to their grandmother's house. Grandma Dowdel is quite a character, and her outlandish exploits include many members of her colorful community.

Raskin, Ellen; The Westing Game
In this Newbery Medal winner, sixteen individuals try to solve the puzzle of who killed Samuel Westing and who will win his millions by uncovering the murderer.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz; Esperanza Rising
Ryan uses the experiences of her own Mexican grandmother in this novel set in 1930. Esperanza must leave her home and her social class as she immigrates to California and begins a new life.

Saeed, Aisha; Amal Unbound
Amal is a young Pakistani girl forced into indentured servitude. She dreams of becoming a teacher but will need patience and persistence as she learns to navigate her new world.

Sidman, Joyce; The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science
This Sibert Medal winner is packed with information and illustrations about Maria Merian, a thirteen-year-old girl whose careful observations helped uncover the truth about metamorphosis. Maria was born in 1647, making her accomplishments even more extraordinary!

Steinbeck, John; The Red Pony
This is the story of a young boy...
Rising Sixth Graders (continued)

who learns about responsibility by caring for a pony of his own in rural California.

Stewart, Trenton Lee; *The Mysterious Benedict Society*

Reynie Muldoon is an eleven-year-old orphan when he becomes one of four children chosen to use their special talents for a secret mission to uncover the mysterious Mr. Curtain’s plans. This book includes dramatic plot twists and unusual characters, along with an underlying theme about the power of media messages.

Taylor, Theodore; *The Cay*

An adolescent boy is blinded after a World War II submarine torpedoes the freighter he is traveling on. He finds himself stranded on a small island with an old man who teaches him lessons in courage, determination, and love.

Urban, Linda; *A Crooked Kind of Perfect*

Zoe dreams of giving piano recitals at Carnegie Hall but must settle for the sounds of the Perfectone D-60 organ her father buys instead. A story filled with hope and humor – and a subtle message about appreciating your own quirkiness.

Voigt, Cynthia; *Homecoming*

Voigt’s depiction of the four Tillerman children and their journey after their mother abandons them is gripping and beautifully written.

Wilson, N.D; *100 Cupboards* (series)

In this fantasy adventure, twelve-year-old Henry York awakens to find plaster falling, revealing doors of all shapes and sizes all over the wall of his bedroom. Finding out where these doors lead will change Henry’s life.

Woodson, Jacqueline; *Brown Girl Dreaming*

In this Newbery Honor book, Woodson creates a memoir in verse, describing what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960’s and 1970’s.

Yang, Kelly; *Front Desk*

Mia Tang and her parents immigrate to the United States from China and find themselves managing a motel for an unkind owner. Ten-year-old Mia’s experiences as she takes over the front desk are based on Kelly Yang’s own experiences as an immigrant in the 1980’s and 1990’s.
Rising Seventh Graders

**Requirements:**

**The Outsiders** by S.E. Hinton
Two books from this list.
One book of choice.
If students have a book they would prefer to read that is not on the list, they need to have permission from their English teacher.

**Accountability:**

Students should complete a summary form for each work they read. Summary forms are available in the Middle School section of the Hancock Library website. In addition to completing a summary form for *The Outsiders*, students should also create a character list for this book and create a list of the five most important events for each chapter. During the first weeks of school, there will be graded assignments on *The Outsiders*. On the first day of school, students should bring their completed summary forms, their events list and character list from *The Outsiders*, and their copy of *The Outsiders*.

**Hancock Library website:**
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Alexander, Kwame; *The Crossover*
Twins Josh and Jordan are junior high basketball stars in this Newbery Medal winner. Written in verse, this well-crafted story is full of energy, with elements of hip-hop and jazz, and a portrait of a strong family bond.

Allen, Thomas B. and Roger MacBride Allen; *Mr. Lincoln’s High-Tech War*
This is a fascinating overview of Lincoln’s interest in technology. Read about Lincoln’s target practice with a new kind of rifle and his study of military strategy. Hot-air balloons, ironclad warships, and telegraphs are all part of this exploration of innovation during the Civil War.

Anderson, Laurie Halse; *Fever 1793*
This book is based on the actual epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia that killed over 5,000 people in three months. Anderson’s novel is extremely well-researched and the female narrator and supporting characters bring history to life in a compelling and dramatic plot.

Burg, Ann E.; *Unbound*
Grace and her family must escape into the Great Dismal Swamp after she speaks up for what is right. This award winner is written in verse and is based on actual narratives of the formerly enslaved collected by the Federal Writers’ Project.

Crane, Stephen; *The Red Badge of Courage*
This small masterpiece was published in 1895 and features a young soldier caught up in an unnamed battle of the American Civil War.

Draper, Sharon; *Out of My Mind*
Melody is the smartest kid in her whole school, but no one knows it because Melody can’t talk, walk, or write. Get ready to meet a girl whose voice you’ll never forget.

Gibson, William; *The Miracle Worker*
This powerful play depicts the education of Helen Keller and her relationship with her extraordinary teacher, Anne Sullivan.

Gratz, Alan; *Refugee*
This skillfully crafted narrative presents three interconnected stories about resilience and survival. Josef is a Jewish boy who must leave Nazi-controlled Germany with his family. Isabel and her family must escape Cuba on a raft in 1994. Mahmoud flees the ongoing war in Aleppo, Syria with his family in 2015. This action-packed novel tackles timeless topics like courage, perseverance, and hope.

Halpern, Jake; *Dormia*
After nurturing a strange plant in his sleep, Alphonso Perplexon finds out that he is from a hidden land called Dormia, whose inhabitants have perfected wakeful sleeping. Alphonso must travel to Dormia to return the plant and save the city.
Hartfield, Claire; **A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919**
In 1919, a black youth was killed while swimming off the shore of Lake Michigan. This Coretta Scott King Award winner explores how this act ignited tensions that had been building for decades and includes contemporary accounts, photos, and source notes.

Hendrix, John; **The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler**
This graphic novel is a captivating and suspenseful retelling of Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s decision to become part of a plot to assassinate Hitler. The colors used in this book are an important part of the depiction of this complex time in history.

Justor, Norton; **The Phantom Tollbooth**
Milo is bored by everything until a mysterious tollbooth appears in his bedroom. Giving it a try takes him on an adventure that is full of twists and turns with a visit to the Island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping) and a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason.

Kadahota, Cynthia; **Kira-Kira**
Set in the 1950s, this 2005 Newbery Medal winner tells the story of two Japanese-American sisters whose family moves from Iowa to Georgia. Narrated by younger sister, Katie, this poignant novel describes the trials of racial discrimination, economic hardship, and terminal illness.

Kelkar, Supriya; **Ahimsa**
Anjali lives in India. It’s 1942, and she has just learned that her mother is going to risk her life for the freedom movement. This New Visions Award winner was inspired by the author’s grandmother’s experience working with Gandhi.

Lewis, C.S.; **Out of the Silent Planet**
In this first volume of his space trilogy, Lewis creates an ethical struggle between man and nature within the Universe.

Lowry, Lois; **Number the Stars**
This 1990 Newbery Medal winner is based on the true story of the evacuation of Jews from Nazi-held Denmark during World War II.

Marsh, Katherine; **Nowhere Boy**
Fourteen-year-old Ahmad finds himself alone in Belgium after fleeing Aleppo, Syria. Ahmad meets Max, a boy from Washington, D.C., and they learn from each other what it means to be a friend and to be brave and how hope can change everything.

Oppel, Kenneth; **Airborn**
Matt Cruse is a cabin boy on the Aurora, a huge airship. This is a swashbuckling adventure, complete with pirates, and it is a Printz honor winner.

Pullman, Philip; **The Ruby in the Smoke**
Set in Victorian London, this mystery features sixteen-year-old Sally as the unusual heroine.

Quirk, Katie; **A Girl Called Problem**
Shida’s name means “problem” in Swahili, and she certainly has a lot of problems in her life. Shida longs for a chance to go to school to become a healer. There is also a mystery involved in this story of life in rural Tanzania in the 1970’s.

Reef, Catherine; **Florence Nightingale: The Courageous Life of the Legendary Nurse**
This biography explores the life of legendary nurse Florence Nightingale, including her long fight to become a nurse. Nightingale’s determination helped to vastly improve conditions for patients, as well as perspectives on nursing in general.

Sheinkin, Steve; **Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal – The World’s Most Dangerous Weapon**
This Newbery Honor book and winner of the Robert F. Sibert Medal begins in 1936 when a scientist in a German laboratory discovers how to split a uranium atom in two. That discovery sparked a race that would span three continents and include scientists, spies, and some of the world’s most ruthless dictators. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

Shusterman, Neal; **The Schwa Was Here**
When Antsy and his friends meet Calvin Schwa, they are impressed by his ability to appear and disappear before their very eyes. This funny book is filled with charismatic characters and intriguing issues.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg; **Counting by 7’s**
This is the moving story of Willow Chance, a twelve year old genius who finds it hard to connect with others. Her world is tragically changed, but Willow’s endearing story is one of endurance and the ties that unite a family.

Smith, Sherri L.; **Flygirl**
Ida Mae Jones is a young black woman in 1940’s Louisiana, and all
Rising Seventh Graders (continued)

She wants to do is fly planes like her father did. This book incorporates extensive historical research about the WASP's – Women Airforce Service Pilots – during World War II.

Steinbeck, John; *The Pearl*

The classic tale of how a priceless pearl brings greed, treachery, and loss to a poor Mexican pearl diver and his family.

Tolkien, J.R.R.; *The Trilogy: The Fellowship of the Ring; The Two Towers; The Return of the King*

Both groundbreaking and timeless, Tolkien's epic recounts the Great War of the Ring in Middle Earth.

Twain, Mark; *The Prince and the Pauper*

It's 1547, and two boys in London meet by chance at the gates of a palace. The boys switch places, and young Prince Edward learns about the struggles of the commoners in England, while Tom learns what it's like to be a prince. Published in 1881, this was Mark Twain's first work of historical fiction.

Vanderpool, Clare; *Moon Over Manifest*

This 2010 Newbery winner follows the story of Abilene Tucker, a girl who is sent to spend the summer in Manifest, Kansas. While Abilene searches for details about her absent father, she also finds friendship, the respect of other townspeople, and answers to some long-held secrets.

Verne, Jules; *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*

In this classic, three men discover many unusual things on their trip to the Earth's mysterious core.

Voigt, Cynthia; *Dicey's Song*

This Newbery Medal winner continues the story of the Tillerman family as Dicey and her siblings adjust to life on their grandmother's farm.

Wells, H.G.; *The Time Machine*

Follow the Time Traveler as he travels more than 800,000 years into the future to discover what will happen to the human race.

Zindel, Paul; *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*

This Pulitzer Prize-winning play centers on Tillie Hunsdorfer and her family. Tillie studies the growth of flowers for a science project in an effort to escape the bitterness of her family and surroundings.
Rising Eighth Graders

**Requirements:**

**Of Mice and Men** by John Steinbeck
Two books from this list.
One book of choice.
If students have a book they would prefer to read that is not on the list, they need to have permission from their English teacher.

**Accountability:**

Students should complete a summary form for each work they read. Summary forms are available in the Middle School section of the Hancock Library website. In addition to completing a summary form for **Of Mice and Men**, students should also create a character list for this book and create a list of the five most important events by chapter. During the first weeks of school, there will be graded assignments on **Of Mice and Men**. On the first day of school, students should bring their completed summary forms, their events list and character list from **Of Mice and Men**, and their copy of **Of Mice and Men**.

**Hancock Library website:**
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Alexander, Kwame; *Booked*
Kwame Alexander continues to show his love of words in this soccer-themed novel written in verse. Nick and his best friend, Coby, have big plans for winning the Dr. Pepper Dallas Cup.

Alexander, Kwame; *Rebound*
*Rebound* is a prequel to *Crossover*, Alexander’s first novel in verse. Readers get a glimpse of Chuck Bell’s childhood and how he came to be the basketball star his sons Josh and Jordan look up to.

Anderson, Laurie Halse; *Chains*
This well-researched book describes the lives of a young slave named Isabel and her sister, Ruth, who are sold to wealthy loyalists in New York City in the spring of 1776. *Chains* is a winner of the Scott O’Dell Award for historical fiction and a National Book Award finalist.

Asimov, Isaac; *The Robots of Dawn*
Written in 1983, this science fiction novel sends New York detective Elijah Bailey to investigate a puzzling case of roboticide.

Bascomb, Neal; *The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World’s Most Notorious Nazi*
Based on the adult bestseller *Hunting Eichmann*, this is the amazing story of the capture of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann by an elite team of Israeli spies.

Bradbury, Ray; *Fahrenheit 451*
This internationally acclaimed novel is set in a dystopian future where firemen start fires rather than put them out. Guy Montag is a fireman whose job is to burn books until he begins to question everything he has known and finds himself running for his life.

Bruchac, Michael; *March Toward the Thunder*
In 1864, Louis Nolette is a fifteen-year-old Abenaki Indian who decides to enlist after a recruiter convinces him that it’s worth the bounty to join an Irish brigade marching from New York to Virginia.

Chabon, Michael; *Summerland*
Pulitzer Prize winner Chabon blends several mythologies to create a vivid fantasy where baseball is king.

Cisneros, Sandra; *The House on Mango Street*
Esperanzo Cordero is a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago. Her story is told through a series of vignettes with distinctive rhythm and imagery.

Dickens, Charles; *Great Expectations*
In what may be Dickens’ best novel, orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan; *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*
This is a collection of the famous detective’s adventures which includes many of his most memorable cases.

Flanagan, John; *Brotherband Chronicles* (series)
There is a new cast of characters for the world of Skandians and Araluens from the Ranger’s Apprentice series. Adventure, friendship, loyalty, and courage are all part of this series as well.
Rising Eighth Graders (continued)

Hale, Shannon; **The Goose Girl**
This is a magical retelling of the Grimm's fairy tale about a girl born with the ability to speak to animals. She is a princess, but she must become a goose girl before she can become queen.

Hickam, Homer; **Rocket Boys: A Memoir**
This book beautifully captures a time when a band of teenage dreamers in a dying coal mining town placed their sights on the stars. Hickam grew up to be a NASA engineer.

Iturbe, Antonio; **The Librarian of Auschwitz**
This incredible story is based on the experiences of Auschwitz prisoner Dita Kraus, who risked her life to keep a handful of books safe for their small school at the camp. Dita was only fourteen years old, and possession of a book was an offense punishable by death.

Khorram, Adib; **Darius the Great is Not Okay**
Darius Kellner is a boy with a Persian mother and an American father who is taking his first trip to Iran. This award winner delves into the ways that Darius does not feel like he will ever be enough in either place.

Kidd, Sue Monk; **The Secret Life of Bees**
Set in South Carolina in 1964, this book tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped by the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed.

Irena Sendler took incredible risks to save 2,500 Jewish children in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II. Her story only became widely known after several high school students in Kansas began to research her in 1999.

Mulligan, Andy; **Trash**
Three young teenagers, trash-pickers living in the city dump of an unnamed third-world country, discover a mysterious bag one morning, triggering a chain of events that will change their lives forever.

Orwell, George; **Animal Farm**
This famous political fable is based on the events of Russia's Bolshevik revolution.

Park, Linda Sue; **A Long Walk to Water**
This book describes the difficult journeys of Salva, in 1985, and Nya, in 2008. Based on a true story, the amazing intersection of these two people’s lives reminds us of all we take for granted.

Pullman, Philip; **The Golden Compass**
Pullman creates a world parallel to our own in which Lyra Belacqua embarks on an adventure pitting good against evil.

Redding, Anna Crowley; **Google It: A History of Google**
Award-winning investigative reporter Anna Crowley Redding shares the story of a thesis project with a deceptively simple goal of "organizing the world’s information." This book includes many graphics, photos, and interesting facts about the creation of Google.

Reef, Catherine; **The Bronte Sisters: The Brief Lives of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne**
This young adult biography explores the lives of these literary sisters and includes more than sixty archival images.

Shakespeare, William; **As You Like It**
All ends well in Shakespeare’s comedy about the banished princess who falls in love at first sight with a poor but brave young man.

Sheinkin, Steve; **Port Chicago 50**
In 1944, a massive munitions explosion rocked the segregated Navy base at Port Chicago, California, killing more than 300 sailors. What many people don’t know is that most of the men assigned to these dangerous tasks were African American, and when they refused to continue loading the dangerous explosives until safety measures were implemented, they were charged with mutiny.

Sheinkin, Steve; **Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team**
Jim Thorpe and Pop Warner met in 1901 at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, where they forged one of the winningest teams in football history; one that came to be known as “the team that invented football.” This is also the story of a school designed to erase Native American culture.

Smith, Betty; **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**
In this profoundly moving novel, young Francie Nolan, an avid reader and penny-candy connoisseur, struggles against all odds to survive and thrive.
Rising Eighth Graders (continued)

Thorn, James Alexander; **Follow the River**
When Shawnee Indians invaded the Virginia settlement where Mary Ingles lived, she was taken captive. After managing to escape, she walked over a thousand miles to get back to her home.

Uwiringiyamana, Sandra, and Abigail Pesta; **How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child**
This moving memoir is the true story of a girl from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who survives a massacre and immigrates to the United States. Uwiringiyamana’s experiences show how complex life can be for refugees as they learn to find a place in a new country.

Watson, Renee; **Piecing Me Together**
Jade is a high school student from a rough neighborhood. She is also a talented collage artist, attends a private school on scholarship, and grows tired of being treated as someone who needs to be fixed. This powerful story is a 2018 Newbery Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Author Award winner.

Wells, H.G.; **The War of the Worlds**
First published in 1898, this science fiction novel details twelve days in which invaders from Mars attack the planet Earth.

Wilder, Thornton; **Our Town**
This Pulitzer Prize winning three-act play portrays the drama of life - and death - in the small village of Grover’s Corners, New Hampshire.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer; **Make Lemonade**
This novel in verse tells the story of La Vaughn, who at fifteen already knows that life is hard and that getting ahead takes a strong mind — and an even stronger will.
Upper School Reading List

“A book is the only place in which you can examine a fragile thought without breaking it, or explore an explosive idea without fear it will go off in your face.”

~Edward P. Morgan
Upper School Reading List

Requirements:


2. The required book for your English Class:
   - Ninth: *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak
   - Tenth: *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck
   - British Literature: *1984* by George Orwell
   - Thematic Literature: *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
   - AP English Literature: *The Right Stuff* by Tom Wolfe

3. One book from the following list.

4. One book of choice. (This can be the required book for Global Studies or STEM.)
   - Global Studies: *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things are Better than You Think* by Hans Rosling
   - STEM: *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Accountability:

Students will be assessed on summer reading assignments as follows:

*Upper School Book*: Students will take a test on this book during the first week of school.

*Book Required for English Class*: Students will take a test on this book during the first few days of school. In most cases, students will have other assignments, such as essays and journal entries, based on this book.

*One book from the Upper School Reading List and one book of the student’s choosing*. Each English teacher will hold students accountable for having read books in these two categories. Teachers may choose book reviews, essays, brief oral presentations, or other methods of assessment. It is important that the students read the required books thoroughly and completely before the beginning of the school year. Late enrollees need to contact the director of the Upper School for advice regarding their summer reading.

Hancock Library website: https://northcross.libguides.com/hancocklibrary

Classics

Austen, Jane; *Emma*
Austen described Emma Woodhouse as “a heroine whom no one but myself will much like,” but the author endowed Emma with enough charm to see her through her most egregious behavior, and the ability to learn from her mistakes.

Defoe, Daniel; *Robinson Crusoe*
Considered by some critics to be the “first” novel, it is a book many people know but have not necessarily read. Crusoe, the son of a middle-class English family, is shipwrecked and lives on an island for 24 years before being rescued.

Fielding, Henry; *Tom Jones*
Our hero, the charming foundling, Tom Jones, is one of the most endearing characters in fiction, and this novel follows his rollicking journey to maturity.

Forster, E.M.; *A Passage to India*
A young native doctor is falsely charged with attacking an English woman in this novel set in colonial India.

Hemingway, Ernest; *For Whom the Bell Tolls*
In this story set in the Spanish Civil War, Hemingway’s craft is so fine that the story becomes a historical document.

James, Henry; *Daisy Miller*
Daisy, a delightfully uninhibited young American, visits the European community and causes social scandals with her high spirits and disregard of formal conventions.
Upper School Reading List (continued)

Wharton, Edith; *Summer*  
The willful heroine wants a grander life than her small town can offer but finds herself in a difficult dilemma as a result of her choices. One of the first American novels to deal frankly with a young woman’s sexual awakening, it was a publishing sensation when it appeared in 1917.

Woolf, Virginia; *Mrs. Dalloway*  
This novel details one day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway as she moves, rather disinterestedly, from glimpsing a “somebody” in a car, to her party where she ignores a “nobody.” At the time this novel was published (1925), its narrative style was still considered experimental.

**Modern Classics**

Capote, Truman; *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*  
Holly Golightly is one of the most charming heroines in all of modern American literature. Immortalized in a film starring Audrey Hepburn, this novel captures the restless, slightly madcap era of 1940s New York.

Cunningham, Michael; *The Hours*  
This Pulitzer Prize winning novel was made into an Oscar-winning movie. The story concerns three generations of women affected by a Virginia Woolf novel.

Haley, Alex; *Roots*  
The author portrays the struggles of seven generations who trace their roots back to West Africa. (Mature Themes)

Kerouac, Jack; *On the Road*  
Almost a cultural metaphor, this is the record of a bohemian journey cross country. (Mature Themes)

O’Connor, Flannery; *The Violent Bear it Away*  
This landmark in American literature was first published in 1955 and features the orphaned Francis Marion Tidewater, his cousins, and the schoolteacher Rayber, who defy the prophecy of Tidewater’s dead uncle.

Rand, Ayn; *The Fountainhead*  
One man struggles to maintain his integrity as an architect despite the social, economic, and legal consequences.

Steinbeck, John; *The Grapes of Wrath*  
In the dustbowl of Oklahoma a family struggles to survive the harshness of the landscape and their own poverty. Steinbeck won the Pulitzer Prize for this book in 1940.

**Science Fiction/Fantasy**

Adams, Douglas; *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*  
A clever, comic, sci-fi classic about a clueless earthling who explores the wonders of the universe, permanently shattering his preconceived ideas.

Adeyemi, Tomi; *Children of Blood and Bone*  
This debut novel is influenced by Adeyemi’s West African heritage and takes on themes of injustice and the struggle for change as twins Zelie and Tzain struggle to bring magic back to Orisha.

Atwood, Margaret; *The Handmaid’s Tale*  
Set in the future in what used to be the United States, this dystopian tale centers around a woman known as Offred. She is a handmaid, one of the few functions available to women in this planned utopia gone wrong. This award winner has never been out of print since its publication in 1985.

Card, Orson Scott; *Ender’s Game*  
A frighteningly brilliant boy is recruited to a military academy whose emergency mission is to find a way to destroy an insectoid alien race.

Crichton, Michael; *Eaters of the Dead*  
In the year 922, a devout Muslim finds himself in a party of Viking raiders embroiled in a fight against supernatural mist monsters. This is an entertaining and scholarly work about cultural differences.

Dick, Philip K.; *The Man in the High Castle*  
It is 1962, fifteen years after the end of World War II, and Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany rule over the former United States. This harrowing alternative history won the Hugo Award for Best Novel in 1963.

Haldeman, Joe; *The Forever War*  
Private William Mandella is an elite soldier sent through space and time to fight in the thousand-year war between Earth and the Taurans. While Mandella’s tour of duty lasts only a few years for him, several hundred years pass on Earth. This award winning science fiction novel was published in 1976.
Upper School Reading List (continued)

Shelley, Mary; **Frankenstein**
In the summer of 1816, Lord Byron suggested a story-writing contest to his neighbors. Mary Shelley took up that challenge, writing about Victor Frankenstein’s terrible creation and thus creating one of the most famous characters in science fiction.

Shusterman, Neal; **Scythe**
In this Printz Honor-winning book, we visit a world with no hunger, no disease, and no death. Scythes are now the only ones who can end life. Citra and Rowan are apprentice scythes who are pitted against one another in a fight for their lives.

Westerfeld, Scott; **Leviathan**
This steampunk adventure is World War I as never seen before. The story begins the same; with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. But the global conflict is between the Clankers, who put their faith in machines, and the Darwinists, whose technology is based on the development of new species.

**Magical Realism**

Kafka, Franz; **The Trial**
In this moral parable, a bank clerk awakens one morning to find he has been arrested. He knows he has not committed a crime; and, although he is not imprisoned, he must regularly appear in court to argue for his innocence.

Kundera, Milan; **The Unbearable Lightness of Being**
Tomas, the protagonist of this fine Czechoslovakian novel, is a successful surgeon until the Russians invade Prague. Tomas is forced to give up his practice and become a window washer.

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia; **One Hundred Years of Solitude**
Through the history of a Latin American family, this novel recounts the rise and fall of the mythical town of Macondo.

Maugham, W. Somerset; **The Razor’s Edge**
Pecola Breedlove is a young African American girl who believes that blond hair and blue eyes will help her to fit in. Morrison’s powerful first novel, published in 1970, explores issues of race, class, and gender. (Mature Themes)

**Mysteries/Detective Fiction**

Christie, Agatha; **The Mysterious Affair at Styles**
Christie’s first mystery, published in 1920, introduces Hercule Poirot. The story centers on Mrs. Inglethorpe, a wealthy, elderly woman who is found dead from arsenic poisoning as the mystery begins.

Le Carre, John; **A Perfect Spy**
In this superb spy novel, the hero is a middle-aged senior official in British Intelligence who decides to write an autobiography for his son.

Sayers, Dorothy; **Whose Body?**
This is Sayers’ first mystery of many, published in 1923. In it, we are introduced to Lord Peter Wimsey, an eccentric amateur detective; Mr. Parker, employed by Scotland Yard; and Lord Peter’s butler, valet, and rescuer, Bunter.

**Historical Fiction**

Anderson, M. T.; **Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad**
This award-winning novel tells the story of Adolf Hitler’s siege of Leningrad beginning in 1941. In the midst of bombardment and starvation, and the deaths of more than a million citizens, composer Dmitri Shostakovich wrote the *Leningrad Symphony*. It went on to occupy a surprising place in the eventual Allied victory.

Buck, Pearl; **The Good Earth**
Though almost 80 years have passed since this remarkable novel won the Pulitzer Prize, it has retained its popularity and become one of the great modern classics. Buck presents a graphic view of a China when the last emperor reigned and the vast political and social upheavals of the twentieth century were but distant rumblings for the ordinary people.
Frazier, Charles; **Cold Mountain**
This is an extraordinary novel about a soldier’s perilous journey back to his beloved at the end of the Civil War.

Hugo, Victor; **Les Miserables**
A beautifully written novel concerning the implications of stealing a loaf of bread in an unjust world.

McCullers, Carson; **The Heart is a Lonely Hunter**
When this novel was published in 1940, Carson McCullers became a literary sensation. At its center is the deaf-mute John Singer who becomes the confidant for various misfits in a Georgia mill town during the 1930s.

Paton, Allan; **Cry, the Beloved Country**
The troubled and changing South Africa of the 1940s is the setting for this story about the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absolom.

Solzhenitsyn, Alexander; **One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich**
A prisoner in a labor camp in Siberia employs memory and ritual in his attempt to survive the hardships.

Tan, Amy; **The Bone Setter’s Daughter**
The central portion of this novel takes place in China in the remote, mountainous region where anthropologists discovered Peking Man in the 1920s. LuLing, the protagonist’s mother, has been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and is determined to preserve the facts about her family history for her daughter.

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**Contemporary Realistic Fiction/Modern Fiction**

Dos Passos, John; **Manhattan Transfer**
Considered by many to be John Dos Passos’s greatest work, this book is an expressionistic picture of New York in the 1920s that reveals the lives of wealthy power brokers and struggling immigrants alike.

Foer, Jonathan Safran; **Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close**
Oskar Schell is a nine-year-old amateur inventor, jewelry designer, astrophysicist, tambourine player and pacifist. When his father dies in the World Trade Center collapse, Oskar shifts his boundless energy to a quest for answers. (Challenging)

Krosoczka, Jarrett J.; **Hey, Kiddo**
This National Book Award finalist is a powerful memoir about Krosoczka’s experiences growing up with a drug-addicted mother, a missing father, and his grandparents who raised him. Krosoczka chose a graphic novel format for his book that is honest, timely, and moving.

McEwan, Ian; **Saturday**
Just a normal Saturday. London neuro-surgeon Henry Perowne plans to play squash with a friend, visit his mother, and cook dinner for his family. A minor auto accident with a belligerent young man, however, proves more disruptive than Perowne ever could have imagined.

Reynolds, Jason; **Long Way Down**
This intense snapshot of fifteen-year-old Will’s response to his brother’s murder takes place in only 60 seconds. Written powerfully in verse, this book has won a Newbery Honor, Coretta Scott King Honor, Printz Honor, the Walter Dean Myers Award, and an Edgar Award for best young adult fiction.

Shusterman, Neal; **Challenger Deep**
Caden Bosch is fifteen years old, a gifted artist, and struggling with mental illness. This National Book Award winner has also won numerous other awards. Shusterman’s own personal experience with his son’s mental illness informed the writing of this book.

Thomas, Angie; **The Hate You Give**
Starr Carter lives in a gang-ravaged area but attends a predominantly white prep school in another part of town. Starr is with her friend Khalil when he is shot, and she must decide how to navigate the two parts of her life as she deals with his death.

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**Sports**

Curtis, Brian; **Fields of Battle: Pearl Harbor, the Rose Bowl, and the Boys Who Went to War**
After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the 1942 Rose Bowl was moved from Pasadena to Durham, North Carolina. After this unforgettable game, many of the players and coaches entered the military, and the lives of these Rose Bowl participants would intersect in surprising ways as World War II went on.

Kennedy, Kostya; **56: Joe DiMaggio and the Last Magic Number in Sports**
Seventy baseball seasons ago, on a May afternoon at Yankee Stadium, Joe DiMaggio lined a hard single to left field. Starting that day, the
Upper School Reading List (continued)

vaunted Yankee centerfielder kept on hitting—at least one hit in game after game after game. Kennedy tells the remarkable story of how the streak found its way into countless lives across the country.

Malamud, Bernard; The Natural
Malamud details the career of an upcoming star in the world of baseball and, at the same time, sustains an allegory that does not get in the way of the story.

MacLean, Norman; A River Runs Through It
Fly fishing becomes a metaphor of life for two brothers in this novel set in the American West.

Short Stories

Butler, Robert Olen; A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain
This is a collection of stories about the aftermath of the Vietnam War and its impact on the Vietnamese. This book won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993.

Carver, Raymond; Cathedral
If you know the famous strangely minimalistic paintings of Edward Hopper, you know some of the characters who live in Carver’s space. A dozen stories that overflow with “clear, hard language so right that we shiver from the knowledge we gain from it.” – Thomas Williams, Chicago Tribune Book World

Faulkner, William; Selected Short Stories
Most of the pieces in this collection are from the fifteen years or so beginning in 1929, widely considered the greatest writing period in Faulkner’s life.

Joyce, James; Dubliners
Among the most read and studied stories in English literature, these fifteen tales offer vivid, tightly-focused observations of the lives of Dublin’s poorer classes.

O’Connor, Flannery; The Complete Stories
This collection of thirty-one of O’Connor’s short stories won the National Book Award and established her monumental contribution to American fiction.

Welty, Eudora; The Collected Stories
Welty’s short stories are well written, full of metaphors and symbolism, and speak a multi-generational and multi-regional dialect all their own.

Poetry

Angelou, Maya; The Complete Poetry
Maya Angelou was a prolific poet, writer, and civil rights activist. This poetry collection was compiled after her death in 2014.

Auden, W. H.; Collected Poems
W.H. Auden was known for his ability to write poems in almost every verse form. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1948. This volume contains the poems Auden wished to preserve.

Brooks, Gwendolyn; Selected Poems
This is a classic volume by the distinguished modern African-American poet and winner of the 1950 Pulitzer Prize.

Neruda, Pablo; Selected Poems
In his long life as a poet, Pablo Neruda succeeded in becoming what many poets have aspired to but never achieved: a public voice, a voice not just for the people of his country but for his entire continent.

Ovid; Metamorphoses
Sometimes mistaken for a mythology handbook, Ovid transforms myths into narratives and poetry.

Walker, Alice; Once
Walker is an American novelist, short story writer, poet, and civil rights activist. She won the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize for her novel The Color Purple. This was Walker’s first volume of poetry.

Drama

Chekhov, Anton; The Cherry Orchard
One of the finest plays of the early 20th century, Anton Chekhov’s last play centers on the impending loss of the “orchard.”

Ibsen, Henrik; The Wild Duck
Many believe this play may have had its genesis in the hostility Ibsen faced after theater-goers received a larger dose of truth than they preferred from his play Ghosts.

O’Neill, Eugene; Long Day’s Journey Into Night
The mother, Mary Tyrone, says, “None of us can help the things that life has done to us. They’re done before you realize it, and once they’re done they make you do other things until at last everything comes between you and what you’d like to be, and you’ve lost your true self forever.” This is one of the most important plays of the 20th century.
Shaw, George Bernard; *The Devil’s Disciple*

Written in 1897 and first published in 1901, this is Shaw’s only play set in America. It is the story of Revolutionary War hero Richard Dudgeon, wrongly arrested by British soldiers in a case of mistaken identity, who keeps the secret, fully aware he will be hanged for another man’s crimes.

Sophocles; *The Complete Greek Tragedies: Sophocles I*

Oedipus’s parents attempt to avoid a bad omen, but these attempts lead them right back to exactly what they tried to avoid. Sophocles epitomizes that Greek sense of the human condition: noble, but tragic because of our limitations.

Stoppard, Tom; *Arcadia*

The scenes in this play alternate between the present day and the early nineteenth century in an English manor house. This work is philosophy versus the progress of science, with quick-witted banter throughout.

Wilde, Oscar; *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Set in England during the late Victorian era, this play’s humor derives in part from characters maintaining fictitious identities to escape unwelcome social obligations. It is replete with witty dialogue and satirizes some of the foibles and hypocrisy of late Victorian society.

Williams, Tennessee; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

Vintage Tennessee Williams, this play is as big as the Deep South of the early 1950s it portrays. The Pollitt family has numerous problems; among them are Big Daddy’s bout with cancer and son Brick and daughter-in-law Maggie’s marital breakdown. Take heart; the ending is truly upbeat.

**Biography, Autobiography, and Letters**

Angelou, Maya; *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Angelou writes of her experiences growing up in Stamps, Arkansas and of how literature and a stubborn, loving grandmother saved her from a life of humiliation. (Mature Themes)

Didion, Joan; *The Year of Magical Thinking*

A memoir of grief, a most personal tale, Didion chronicles the sudden death of her husband and the equally stunningly unbelievable death of her only child, Quintana.

Gordon, Charlotte; *Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley*

This dual biography describes the life of Mary Wollstonecraft, a pioneering English feminist, and the daughter she never knew. Wollstonecraft died eleven days after the birth of her daughter Mary, who would one day write *Frankenstein.* This is a fascinating look at the lives of these two women.

Greenblatt, Stephen; *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare*

This is one of the most articulate, carefully researched, and thoughtfully concluded biographies of Shakespeare in recent times.

Griffin, John Howard; *Black Like Me*

Novelist Griffin darkened his skin and set out to discover some startling truths about what it was really like to be an African-American in the Deep South in the 1950s.

Levi, Primo; *Survival in Auschwitz*

In 1943, Primo Levi, a 25-year-old chemist and “Italian citizen of Jewish race,” was arrested and sent to Auschwitz. This is his classic account of his ten months in the German death camp.

Lewis, John and Andrew Aydin; *March* (three volumes)

John Lewis is one of the key figures in the civil rights movement in the United States. This graphic novel trilogy is a first-hand account of Lewis’ life. This graphic format was chosen, in part, because Lewis and other student activists were inspired by a 1958 comic book called “Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story.”

Thompson, Hunter; *Hell’s Angels: A Strange and Terrible Saga*

In the mid-1960’s, Thompson spent almost two years living and riding with the Hell’s Angels. His book was a rare up-close look at the controversial motorcycle club. This was the book that launched Thompson’s career as a writer. (Mature Themes)

X, Malcolm; *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

Now an established classic of modern America, this autobiography of Malcolm Little conveys the pathos and impact of this controversial man.
Upper School Reading List (continued)

**Nonfiction**

Bryson, Bill; *One Summer: America, 1927*

Bryson vividly captures the exciting events taking place in the United States during the summer of 1927. His trademark eye for detail weaves together the background of each event, including historical figures like Babe Ruth, Charles Lindbergh, and Henry Ford, as well as lesser-known historical events that also figured prominently at the time.

Carson, Rachel; *Silent Spring*

This narrative articulately describes the intimate relationship between environment and life.

Coll, Steve; *Private Empire: ExxonMobil and American Power*

Coll tracks the recent history of ExxonMobil and its central role on the world stage. This is a study of Big Oil’s role in American politics and foreign policy.

Cozzens, Peter; *The Earth is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars of the American West*

Cozzens, an expert in 19th century warfare, presents his research in an effort to bring balance to our understanding of the Indian Wars of the American West. This book is a winner of the Gilder-Lehrman Prize for Military History and was a Smithsonian Top History Book of 2016.

Dubois, W.E.B.; *The Souls of Black Folks*

An educator born in New England, Dubois argues in 1903 for the abolition of the social color line. At the core of his argument is the importance of education. This is an especially interesting book for those interested in Southern culture.

Fagin, Dan; *Tom’s River: A Story of Science and Salvation*

The winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize, Tom’s River is the true story of a town ravaged by industrial pollution. This book combines investigative reporting and historical research to examine this New Jersey town’s cluster of childhood cancers.

Feynman, Richard; *Six Easy Pieces: Essentials of Physics Explained by its Most Brilliant Teacher*

Feynman, a Nobel laureate, delivered a series of physics lectures at the California Institute of Technology in the 1960’s that revolutionized the teaching of physics. Six Easy Pieces introduces the general reader to the most accessible topics from his lecture series. This is an ideal introduction to the fundamentals of physics.

Friedman, Thomas; *Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist’s Guide to Thriving in the Age of Acceleration*

Friedman’s thesis is that technology, globalization, and changes involving Mother Nature are all accelerating at once and reshaping our world. His book is described as a field guide to the twenty-first century.

Lee, Heath Hardage; *League of Wives: The Untold Story of the Women Who Took on the U.S. Government to Bring Their Husbands Home*

Lee chronicles the remarkable story of the group of women who formed The National League of Families and relentlessly lobbied for their husbands, who were prisoners of war in Vietnam. Their covert meetings, savvy media campaigns, and coded letters are all part of this fascinating account.

Montefiore, Simon Sebag; *The Romanovs: 1613-1918*

The Romanovs were the most successful dynasty of modern times. This monumental work of Russian history is the story of twenty tsars and tsarinas.

Ross, Alex; *The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century*

Written by the music critic for The New Yorker, this ambitious text traces the history of music during the 20th century.

Stewart, Rory; *The Places in Between*

This is a fascinating memoir of Stewart’s walk across Afghanistan in 2002.

Winik, Jay; *April 1865: The Month that Saved America*

This is a fascinating look at the Civil War’s final days and our nation’s new beginning. Winik’s thoughtful questions about what did—and did not—happen make this much more than just a recounting of historical facts.
Faculty & Staff Favorites

Lily Angus
The Book with No Pictures
by B.J. Novak

Chris Brandon
The Age of Innocence
by Edith Wharton

Emily Brown
The Nightingale
by Kristin Hannah

Kate Clark
The Storyteller’s Secret
by Sajal Badani

Lisa Cone
The Book Whisperer: Awakening the Inner Reader in Every Child
by Donalyn Miller

Richard Cook
Friends Divided: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson
by Gordon S. Wood

Ryan Cook ’93
The Island at the Center of the World
by Russell Shorto
32 Y olks: From My Mother’s Table to Working the Line
by Eric Ripert

Nicki Dabney
Traveling with Pomegranates: A Mother and Daughter Journey to the Sacred Places of Greece, Turkey, and France
by Sue Monk Kidd and Ann Taylor Kidd

Sharon Daly
Our Thankful Class
by North Cross School Class of ’29

Ryan DeMarco
A Gentleman in Moscow
by Amor Towles
Daring Greatly
by Brené Brown

Ed Dickenson
All the Light We Cannot See
by Anthony Doerr

Mistie Dickenson
Dune
by Frank Herbert

Jimmie Donnini
The Point of it All: A Lifetime of Great Loves and Endeavors
by Charles Krauthammer and Daniel Krauthammer

Malcolm Douglas
A Gentleman in Moscow
by Amor Towles

Laura Gamble
Tops and Bottoms
by Janet Stevens

Robin Garrett
Love Does
by Bob Goff

Leigh Ann Hamlin
Educated
by Tara Westover

Amy Hanson
Circe
by Madeline Miller
Song of Achilles
by Madeline Miller

Jared Hanson
Lit Up
by David Denby
Dubliners
by James Joyce

Melanie Harrison
Crazy Rich Asians
by Kevin Kwan

Pam Haskins
Untethered Soul
by Michael A. Singer

Mariana Hermosilla de Casco
The Happiness Project
by Gretchen Rubin

The Power of Now
by Eckhart Tolle
Still Me
by Christopher Reeve

Dawn Hollandsworth ’75
The Wild Robot
by Peter Brown
The Wild Robot Escapes
by Peter Brown

Amy Holley
The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise
by Dan Gemeinhart
A Gentleman in Moscow
by Amor Towles

Lauren Horner
Let Your Mind Run: A Memoir of Thinking My Way to Victory
by Deena Kastor

Amy Jackson
Originals: How Non-Conformists Move the World
by Adam Grant

Deborah Jesse
The Alice Network
by Kate Quinn

Marcy Johnson
The Nightingale
by Kristin Hannah

Erin Jones
In the Enemy’s House
by Howard Bloom

Polly Jones
Nutshell
by Ian McEwan

Allie Kier
Children of Blood and Bone
by Tomi Adeyemi
The Astonishing Color of After
by Emily X. R. Pan

Josh Kier
Parker: The Hunter
by Richard Stark

Michael Koss
Against Method
by Paul Feyerabend

David Lake
New York
by Edward Rutherford

Victor Lamas
How to Write, Speak, and Think More Effectively
by Rudolph Flesch

Jennifer Landry
The Grapes of Wrath
by John Steinbeck

Wendy Lawrence
The One in a Million Boy
by Monica Wood

Shawn Lee
Mortal Engines (series)
by Philip Reeve
Faculty & Staff Favorites (continued)

Jennifer Luckay
*Before We Were Yours*
by Lisa Wingate

Meade Martin
*Before We Were Yours*
by Lisa Wingate

Amy McArthur
*The Poisonwood Bible*
by Barbara Kingsolver
*Unbroken: A Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*
by Laura Hillenbrand
*A Series of Unfortunate Events*
(series) by Lemony Snicket

Reed McGinn
*Brotherband Chronicles*
by John Flanagan
*The Welsh Trilogy*
by Sharon K. Penman

Chris Moore ’71
*A Gentleman in Moscow*
by Amor Towles

Ryan Nunley
*Jaws*
by Peter Benchley

Kate Parker
*Harold and the Purple Crayon*
by Crockett Johnson
*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*
by Robert Pirsig
*The Last Lecture*
by Randy Pausch

Sandy Patterson
*The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Adversity*
by Nadine Burke Harris, M. D.

Rachelle Phillips
*I’ll Be Gone in the Dark*
by Michelle McNamara

Christian Proctor
*Mr. Midshipman Hornblower*
by C.S. Forrester

Annie Robertson
*Women in Sunlight*
by Frances Mayes

Robert Robillard
*These Truths: A History of the United States*
by Jill Lepore

Jennifer Sanders ’03
*I’m Supposed to Protect You from All This*
by Nadja Spiegelman

Jessica Schindhelm
*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
by Betty Smith

Jon Sirko
*America: The Farewell Tour*
by Chris Hedges

Heather Slaughter
*There’s No Such Thing as Bad Weather*
by Linda Akeson McGurk

Sarah Sledd ’12
*Gmorning, Gnight: Little Pep Talks for Me & You*
by Lin-Manuel Miranda

Mark Thompson
*The Lost City of the Monkey God*
by Douglas Preston

Blair Trail ’95
*Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead*
by Sheryl Sandberg

Emily Votta
*Serafina and the Black Cloak*
by Robert Beatty
*The Napping House*
by Audrey Wood
*Scaredy Squirrel* (series)
by Melanie Watt
Senior Favorites from the Class of 2019

Davis Alcorn
*The Lord of the Rings (trilogy)* by J. R. R. Tolkien

Emily Allara
*Magic Tree House (series)* by Mary Pope Osborne

Lainey Auwarter
*The Stranger Beside Me: The Shocking Inside Story of Serial Killer Ted Bundy* by Anne Rule

Andy Benson
*Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

Olivia Bloch
*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

Maddy Bradley
*The Girls: A Novel* by Emma Cline

Julia Brown
*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

Charlie Card
*Maus* by Art Spiegelman

Dominique Chapman
*Killing Stalking* by Koogi; *It Gets Worse* by Shane Dawson

Ruxi Dancea
*Cat’s Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut

Ann Ashley Daniel
*Orlando* by Virginia Woolf

Tanner Davis
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* by Jeff Kinney

Trenton Dias-Maxwell
*ABC’s for the Little g’s* by David Park and Little Giants Giant Shorties

Aiden Erwin
*The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

Davin Hansen
*Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card

Triff H’Doubler
*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

Rachel Holmes
*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo

Nalin Jha
*Deep Thinking: Where Machine Intelligence Ends and Human Creativity Begins* by Garry Kasparov

Sophia Kelley
*The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger

Lilly Kemper
*The Girls: A Novel* by Emma Cline

Isa Kevorkian
*Claudine at School* by Collette

Renée Leger
*Don’t Bump the Glump: And Other Fantasies* by Shel Silverstein; *The Monster at the End of this Book* by Jon Stone

Audrey Lemon
*The Kingdom of Fantasy* by Geronimo Stilton

Yvette Liu
*The Stranger* by Albert Camus

Elijah Lloyd
*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

Andrew Lorenz
*One Second After* by William R. Forstchen

Meredith McGimsey
*Accidental Icon: Musings of a Geriatric Starlet* by Iris Apfel

Piers McGinn
*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

Ryan Messick
*The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

Claudia Morgan
*The Fourteen Bears, Summer and Winter* by Evelyn Scott

Cabell Moskal
*The Art of the Deal* by Donald Trump and Tony Schwartz

Harry Pearson
*Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* by Hunter S. Thompson

Katherine Rakes
*Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World* by Bob Goff

Victoria Riego de Dios
*Meet Cute* by Jennifer L. Armentrout, et al.

Euan Spikers
*1984* by George Orwell

Gabrielle Thompson
*The Brain: The Story of You* by David Eagleman

Jackson Walker
*The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway

Peter Wang
*Send You a Bullet* by Liu Yu

Grace Wenk
*Miles to Go* by Miley Cyrus

Grace Whitesell
*Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel

Isaac Yeaman
*The Summer Game* by Roger Angell

Austin Zappa;
*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

Billy Zhai
*How the Steel was Tempered* by Nikolai Ostrovsky

Howard Zhou
*Pimp: The Story of My Life* by Iceberg Slim
Parent Resources

Bruehl, Mariah; *Playful Learning: Develop Your Child’s Sense of Joy and Wonder*

Codell, Esme Raji; *How to Get your Child to Love Reading: For Ravenous and Reluctant Readers Alike*

Coloroso, Barbara; *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Not-So-Innocent Bystander: From Preschool to High School and Beyond: Breaking the Cycle of Violence and Creating More Deeply Caring Communities*

Duckworth, Angela; *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*

Eide, Brock L. and Fernette F. Eide; *The Dyslexic Advantage: Unlocking the Hidden Potential of the Dyslexic Brain*

Ginsburg, Kenneth R.; *Building Resilience in Children and Teens: Giving Kids Roots and Wings*

Heitner, Devorah; *Screenwise: Helping Kids Thrive (and Survive) in Their Digital World*

MacKenzie, Sarah; *The Read-Aloud Family: Making Meaningful and Lasting Connections with Your Kids*

Schuld, Jackie; *Grief is a Mess*

Silvey, Anita, ed; *Everything I Need to Know I Learned from a Children’s Book: Life Lessons from Notable People from All Walks of Life*

Wolf, Maryanne; *Reader, Come Home: The Reading Brain in a Digital World*

STEAM Titles

For our families to enjoy together

There are already a number of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) titles on our summer reading list, but these are a few additional titles we thought our families might enjoy.

Bers, Marina Umaschi; *Scratch Jr Coding Cards: Creative Coding Activities*

Bolden, Tonya; *How to Build a Museum*

Bordoe, Cheryl; *Nothing Stopped Sophie*

Challoner, Jack; *Maker Lab: 28 Super Cool Projects* *Build *Invent *Create *Discover*

Chatterson, Crystal; *Awesome Science Experiments for Kids*

Dees, Sarah; *Genius LEGO Inventions with Bricks You Already Have*

Fulton, Kristen; *When Sparks Fly: The True Story of Robert Goddard, the Father of US Rocketry*

Grandin, Temple; *Calling All Minds: How to Think and Create Like an Inventor*

Gray, Theodore; *The Elements: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe*

Ignotofsky, Rachel; *Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World*

Latham, Donna; *Bridges and Tunnels: Investigate Feats of Engineering*

Mansfield, Andy; *Find the Dots*

Schwake, Susan; *Art Lab for Kids: 52 Creative Adventures in Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Paper, and Mixed Media*

Smith, David J.; *If: A Mind-Bending New Way of Looking at Big Ideas and Numbers*

Steele, Philip; *A City Through Time*

Woodcock, Jon; *Coding Projects in Scratch*
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