

Summer Reading: 6th grade, 2017

Everyone will read both books.

***I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifirenka**

"Sensitively and candidly demonstrating how small actions can result in enormous change, this memoir of two families' transformation through the commitment and affection of long-distance friends will humble and inspire."—*Publishers Weekly*

"The remarkable tenacity of these two souls pulled like magnets across the world by their opposite polarities - one committed to helping, the other to surviving - is deeply affecting...It's quite a little miracle of unexpected genuineness."—*New York Times Book Review*

"A well-written, accessible story that will open Western adolescents' eyes to life in developing countries. Told in the first person, with chapters alternating between Caitlin's and Martin's points of view, this title effectively conveys both of these young people's perspectives...a strong and inspiring story...and an eye-opening look at life in another culture."—*School Library Journal*

***The Ruins of Gorlan (Ranger's Apprentice Book One)* by John Flanagan**

"The last few years have seen the publication of many fantasies, but few have the appeal of this original story. Rather than creating a host of strange creatures and magical powers, Flanagan concentrates on character, offering readers a young protagonist they will care about and relationships that develop believably over time. Will's world is a colorful place, threatened by an evil warlord and his fierce minions, but it's the details of everyday living and the true-to-life emotions of the people that are memorable."—*Booklist*

Summer Reading: 7th grade, 2017

Everyone will read both books.

***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli**

Stargirl. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of “Stargirl, Stargirl.” She captures Leo Borlock’s heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first.

Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal.

***The Reader* by Traci Chee**

Sefia knows what it means to survive. After her father is brutally murdered, she flees into the wilderness with her aunt Nin, who teaches her to hunt, track, and steal. But when Nin is kidnapped, leaving Sefia completely alone, none of her survival skills can help her discover where Nin’s been taken, or if she’s even alive. The only clue to both her aunt’s disappearance and her father’s murder is the odd rectangular object her father left behind, an object she comes to realize is a book—a marvelous item unheard of in her otherwise illiterate society. With the help of this book, and the aid of a mysterious stranger with dark secrets of his own, Sefia sets out to rescue her aunt and find out what really happened the day her father was killed—and punish the people responsible.

Summer Reading: 8th grade, 2017

Everyone will read both books.

***I Am the Cheese* by Robert Cormier**

A boy's search for his father becomes a desperate journey to unlock a secret past. But the past must not be remembered if the boy is to survive. As he searches for the truth that hovers at the edge of his mind, the boy—and readers—arrive at a shattering conclusion.

***Scythe* by Neil Shusterman**

A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control.

Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

Summer Reading: 9th grade, 2017

Everyone will read both books.

War Child: A Child Soldier's Story

by Emmanuel Jal, Megan Lloyd Davies

ISBN-10: 0312602979

In the mid-1980s, Emmanuel Jal was a seven year old Sudanese boy, living in a small village with his parents, aunts, uncles, and siblings. But as Sudan's civil war moved closer—with the Islamic government seizing tribal lands for water, oil, and other resources—Jal's family moved again and again, seeking peace. Then, on one terrible day, Jal was separated from his mother, and later learned she had been killed; his father Simon rose to become a powerful commander in the Christian Sudanese Liberation Army, fighting for the freedom of Sudan. Soon, Jal was conscripted into that army, one of 10,000 child soldiers, and fought through two separate civil wars over nearly a decade. But, remarkably, Jal survived, and his life began to change when he was adopted by a British aid worker. He began the journey that would lead him to change his name and to music: recording and releasing his own album, which produced the number one hip-hop single in Kenya, and from there went on to perform with Moby, Bono, Peter Gabriel, and other international music stars.

Shocking, inspiring, and finally hopeful, *War Child* is a memoir by a unique young man, who is determined to tell his story and in so doing bring peace to his homeland.

The Beekeeper's Apprentice, or On the Segregation of the Queen

by Laurie R. King

ISBN: 9780312427368

ISBN-10: 0312427360

Sherlock Holmes takes on a young, female apprentice in this delightful and well-wrought addition to the master detective's casework. In the early years of WW I, 15-year-old American Mary Russell encounters Holmes, retired in Sussex Downs where Conan Doyle left him raising bees. Mary, an orphan rebelling against her guardian aunt's strictures, impresses the sleuth with her intelligence and acumen. Holmes initiates her into the mysteries of detection, allowing her to participate in a few cases when she comes home from her studies at Oxford. The collaboration is ignited by the kidnapping in Wales of Jessica Simpson, daughter of an American senator. The sleuthing duo find signs of the hand of a master criminal, and after Russell rescues the child, attempts are made on their lives (and on Watson's), with evidence piling up that the master criminal is out to get Holmes and all he holds dear. King (*A Grave Talent*) has created a fitting partner for the Great Detective: a quirky, intelligent woman who can hold her own with a man renowned for his contempt for other people's thought processes.

Summer Reading: 10th grade, 2017

Everyone will read both books.

***The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls**

ISBN-10: 074324754X

ISBN-13: 978-0743247542

Jeanette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict." Cooking a meal that would be consumed in fifteen minutes had no appeal when she could make a painting that might last forever.

***Night* by Elie Wiesel**

ISBN-10: 0374500010

ISBN-13: 978-0374500016

“In Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night*, a scholarly, pious teenager is wracked with guilt at having survived the horror of the Holocaust and the genocidal campaign that consumed his family. His memories of the nightmare world of the death camps present him with an intolerable question: how can the God he once so fervently believed in have allowed these monstrous events to occur? There are no easy answers in this harrowing book, which probes life's essential riddles with the lucid anguish only great literature achieves. It marks the crucial first step in Wiesel's lifelong project to bear witness for those who died.” – Amazon Reviews

Summer Reading: 11th grade, 2017

Everyone will read both books.

***The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway**

“...what's most shocking about the book is its lean, adjective-free style. *The Sun Also Rises* is Hemingway's masterpiece--one of them, anyway--and no matter how many times you've read it or how you feel about the manners and morals of the characters, you won't be able to resist its spell. This is a classic that really does live up to its reputation.” --David Laskin

***Nisei Daughter* by Monica Itoi Sone**

“Sone reminds us that the anti-Japanese sentiment and threat of war [was] looming over them but it doesn't stop the family members from going forward with their lives – showing the kind of strength we all wish we had” —Samantha Pak, *Northwest Asian Weekly*

Summer Reading: 12th grade, 2017

Everyone will read at least two books. Any edition, digital or print, is acceptable.

All students must read *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque

“Paul Baumer enlisted with his classmates in the German army of World War I. Youthful, enthusiastic, they become soldiers. But despite what they have learned, they break into pieces under the first bombardment in the trenches. And as horrible war plods on year after year, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principles of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against each other--if only he can come out of the war alive.” --Amazon

"The world has a great writer in Erich Maria Remarque. He is a craftsman of unquestionably first rank, a man who can bend language to his will. Whether he writes of men or of inanimate nature, his touch is sensitive, firm, and sure." -- THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

This book challenges us at the deepest levels of our consciousness. Much like a *Farewell to Arms* and *The Things They Carried*, Remarque's classic raises our awareness of the intimately personal aspects of war, its horrors, its inhumanity. Contemporaneous with the works of Hemingway and Steinbeck, *All Quiet on the Western Front* is considered one of the best and most important novels of the Twentieth Century. In terms of readability it is easy; in terms of emotional impact it is mature.--Mrs. Lycan

Students may choose between the following for the second book. If you love to read, then read all three. They are worth the time.

***Sarah's Key* by Tatiana Rosnay**

“Paris, July 1942: Sarah, a ten-year-old girl, is taken with her parents by the French police as they go door to door arresting Jewish families in the middle of the night. Desperate to protect her younger brother, Sarah locks him in a bedroom cupboard—their secret hiding place—and promises to come back for him as soon as they are released.

Sixty Years Later: Sarah's story intertwines with that of Julia Jarmond, an American journalist investigating the roundup. In her research, Julia stumbles onto a trail of secrets that link her to Sarah, and to questions about her own future. In *Sarah's Key*, Tatiana de Rosnay offers up a mesmerizing story in which a tragic past unfolds, the present is torn apart, and the future is irrevocably altered.” --Macmillan Publishers

Everyone who reads this book is moved by it. *Sarah's Key* intrigues the reader with parallel plots separated by six decades of living and deceit. The unexpected twists, some fictional, some

historical, leave the reader guessing. --Mrs. Lycan

Or

***The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver**

“Clear-eyed and spirited, Taylor Greer grew up poor in rural Kentucky with the goals of avoiding pregnancy and getting away. But when she heads west with high hopes and a barely functional car, she meets the human condition head-on. By the time Taylor arrives in Tucson, Arizona, she has acquired a completely unexpected child, a three-year-old American Indian girl named Turtle, and must somehow come to terms with both motherhood and the necessity for putting down roots. Hers is a story about love and friendship, abandonment and belonging, and the discovery of surprising resources in apparently empty places.” -- Goodreads

A favorite among readers, this book engages you on a personal level and creates empathy for the characters that only the best fiction can induce. Fans of Kingsolver consider it her best. I am always left wanting to read more of her writing. I like that in an author. --Mrs. Lycan