

Summer Reading: 12th grade, 2018

Everyone will read at least two books. All students must read *Siddhartha*.

Siddhartha by Herman Hesse.

“In the shade of a banyan tree, a grizzled ferryman sits listening to the river. Some say he's a sage. He was once a wandering samana and, briefly, like thousands of others, he followed Gautama the Buddha, enraptured by his sermons. But this man, Siddhartha, was not a follower of any but his own soul. Born the son of a Brahmin, Siddhartha was blessed in appearance, intelligence, and charisma. In order to find meaning in life, he discarded his promising future for the life of a wandering ascetic.” --Amazon Book Review

Note: This book is a perfect prelude to 12th grade studies in literature and theology.

“Inspiring read—sit under a tree or by a stream and enjoy! Students love this story.” Students may choose between the following for the second book. If you love to read, then read all three. They are worth the time.

Choose one of the following books:

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. Lyan

Or

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

“*The Poisonwood Bible* is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it -- from garden seeds to Scripture -- is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa.” This book has been a summer reading selection before and was enjoyed by all who read it.

Summer Reading: 11th grade, 2018

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: 10th grade, 2018

Students will read both books.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York.

The House of Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

The House of the Scorpion is the gripping and gritty tale of a young clone's identity struggle. Set in a strip of poppy fields lying between the United States and what was once called Mexico. Matteo Alacrán's first cell split and divided inside a petri dish. Then he was placed in the womb of a cow, where he continued the miraculous journey from embryo to fetus to baby. He is a boy now, but most consider him a monster. As Matt struggles to understand his existence, he is threatened by a sinister cast of characters. Escape is the only chance Matt has to survive. But escape from the Alacrán Estate is no guarantee of freedom, because Matt is marked by his difference in ways he doesn't even suspect.

Summer Reading: 9th grade, 2018

Everyone will read both books.

Cinder by Marissa Meyer

ISBN-10: 1250007208

ISBN-13: 978-1250007209

While manning her mechanic booth to make money for her lazy stepmother, Cinder is shocked to see Prince Kai approach her. Can she fix his tutor droid for him? A little bit of flirting later, she has the job -- and the hope that he never finds out that under one work glove, a pant leg, and a shoe, her body is melded with metal parts thanks to a horrible accident she doesn't remember. She *does* remember getting adopted at age 11 and her guardian dying of the dreaded letumosis, leaving her with a stepmother who despises cyborgs and Cinder's two stepsisters. Cinder thinks her stepmother's threat to volunteer her as a letumosis test subject is an empty one until one of her stepsisters gets sick and is sent to die in quarantine, right before the big ball. While Cinder thinks she's being sent to her death as well, she's in for a big surprise. It turns out she's a lot more valuable to the planet than as a simple lab rat.

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.

Summer Reading: 8th grade, 2018

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: 7th grade, 2018

Everyone will read both books.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, one thing is for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game!

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: 6th grade, 2018

Everyone will read both books.

The Magician's Nephew by C. S. Lewis

In this first novel in C. S. Lewis's classic series, readers witness the creation of the magical land of Narnia, where all things are possible. An exciting adventure involving two friends who embark on a daring mission to another world. Sixth grade students will discuss this novel in both English and Theology classes.

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*