

Summer Reading: Rising 12th Grade - 2019

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

***Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse**

In *Siddhartha*, a young Brahmin rejects his comfortable life to seek inner peace through a series of contrasting experiences.

This text provides students with a baseline for developing a deeper understanding of content and structure in 12th grade English.

Choose one from the following novels (but feel free to read both!):

***Circe* by Madeline Miller**

“With lyric beauty of language and melancholy evocative of Keats’ “Ode on a Grecian Urn”, *Circe* asks all the big questions of existence while framing them in the life story of the famous goddess who had the magic of transformations. A veritable Who’s Who of the gods of Olympus and the heroes of ancient Greece, Circe knows them all and we see them through her perceptive eyes. This is as close as you will ever come to entering the world of mythology as a participant. Stunning, touching, and unique.” —Margaret George, author of *The Confessions of Young Nero*

This novel has been selected as an option for students who want to refresh their knowledge of classical mythology. Its perspective will also assist in discussions of literary theory, adaptations, and understanding multiple viewpoints.

OR

***The Good Thief* by Hannah Tinti**

“An American Dickensian tale with touches of Harry Potterish whimsy ... plain-spoken fiction full of traditional virtues: strong plotting, pure lucidity, visceral momentum and a total absence of writerly mannerisms.” —Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*

Tinti’s novel contains adventures, social relations, and tropes that reveal its debt to the British literary tradition. Students will read novels in each unit and this text provides a foundation for understanding the formal elements of this genre.

Summer Reading: Rising 11th Grade - 2019

Students are to read both books.

Someone Like Me by Julissa Arce

"*Someone Like Me* is a beautiful tale of love, perseverance, and survival. Arce gives readers a poignant and heart-wrenching window into the pain and anxiety endured by immigrant families separated by the border in a time when we desperately need it. She's an inspiration to all Americans."—Sara Saedi, author of *Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card*

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: Rising 10th Grade - 2019

Students are to 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: Rising 9th Grade - 2019

Students are to read both books.

***Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie**

- ISBN-10: 0062073508
- ISBN-13: 978-0062073501

Any copy will work

Murder on the Orient Express is a detective novel by mystery writer Agatha Christie featuring the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. The elegant train of the 1930s, the Orient Express, is stopped by heavy snowfall, with many passengers. A murder is discovered, and Poirot's trip home to London from the Middle East is interrupted to solve the murder.

***The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency (Book 1)* by Alexander McCall Smith**

- ISBN-10: 9781400034772
- ISBN-13: 978-1400034772

Any copy will work

The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency tells the story of the delightfully cunning and enormously engaging Precious Ramotswe, who is drawn to her profession to "help people with problems in their lives." Immediately upon setting up shop in a small storefront in Gaborone, she is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, and follow a wayward daughter. But the case that tugs at her heart, and lands her in danger, is a missing eleven-year-old boy, who may have been snatched by witchdoctors.

Summer Reading: Rising 8th Grade - 2019

Students are to read both books.

- ***Scythe* by Neal 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.

- ***The Dreadful Tale of Prosper Redding* by Alexandra Bracken**

Prosper is the only unexceptional Redding in his old and storied family history—that is, until he discovers the demon living inside him. Turns out Prosper's great-great-great-great-great-something grandfather made—and then broke—a contract with a malefactor, a demon who exchanges fortune for eternal servitude. And, weirdly enough, eight-hundred-year-old Alastor isn't exactly the forgiving type.

The fiend has reawakened with one purpose—to destroy the family whose success he ensured and who then betrayed him. With only days to break the curse and banish Alastor back to the demon realm, Prosper is playing unwilling host to the fiend, who delights in tormenting him with nasty insults and constant attempts to trick him into a contract. Yeah, Prosper will take his afterlife *without* a side of eternal servitude, thanks. But with the help of his long-lost uncle, Barnabas, and his daughter, Nell, a witch-in-training, it seems like Prosper has at least a fighting chance of ridding himself of Alastor before the demon escapes and wreaks havoc on his family.

Little does Prosper know, the malefactor's control over his body grows stronger with each passing night and there's a lot Alastor isn't telling his dim-witted (but admittedly strong-willed) human host?

Summer Reading: Rising 7th Grade - 2019

Students are to read both books.

- ***York* by Laura Ruby**

It was 1798 when the Morningstarr twins arrived in New York with a vision for a magnificent city: towering skyscrapers, dazzling machines, and winding train lines, all running on technology no one had ever seen before.

Fifty-seven years later, the enigmatic architects disappeared, leaving behind for the people of New York the Old York Cipher—a puzzle laid into the shining city they constructed, at the end of which was promised a treasure beyond all imagining. By the present day, however, the puzzle has never been solved, and the greatest mystery of the modern world is little more than a tourist attraction.

Tess and Theo Biedermann and their friend Jaime Cruz live in a Morningstarr apartment—until a real estate developer announces that the city has agreed to sell him the five remaining Morningstarr buildings. Their likely destruction means the end of a dream long held by the people of New York.

And if Tess, Theo, and Jaime want to save their home, they have to prove that the Old York Cipher is real. Which means they have to solve it.

- ***The Vengekeep Prophecies* by Brian Farrey**

Jaxter Grimjinx is a born thief. At least, he's supposed to be. For generations, the Grimjinx clan has produced the swiftest, cleverest thieves in Vengekeep. The problem is, Jaxter is clumsy. So clumsy that in his first solo heist, he sets the Castellan's house on fire and lands his family in prison. Even Jaxter's talent for breaking magical locks can't get them out of this bind.

Then a suspiciously convenient prophecy emerges, naming the Grimjinx clan as the soon-to-be heroes of Vengekeep. It's good enough to get his family out of jail, but when the doomsday prophecy starts to come true, Jaxter is pretty sure a life behind bars would be a better fate. Now, with the help of his new friend, Callie, Jaxter will have to face down flaming monsters, a bazaar of thieves, and a renegade sorcerer to become the hero he was truly born to be.

Summer Reading: Rising 6th Grade - 2019

Students are to read both books.

***Refugee* by Alan Gratz**

“We encounter Jesus in those who are poor, rejected, or refugees. Do not let fear get in the way of welcoming our neighbour in need.” Pope Francis, June 20, 2018

“Welcoming the stranger is thus intrinsic to the nature of the Church itself and bears witness to its fidelity to the Gospel.” Pope John Paul II, Instruction on the Love of Christ Toward Migrants, 2004

"Gratz accomplishes a feat that is nothing short of brilliant, offering a skillfully wrought narrative laced with global and intergenerational reverberations that signal hope for the future. . . . Poignant, respectful, and historically accurate while pulsating with emotional turmoil, adventure, and suspense." *Kirkus Reviews*

***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*