

Summer Reading: Rising 12th Grade - 2020

Students are to read both books.

***Siddhartha* by Hermann 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

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

***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 to assist in discussions of literary history, theory, adaptations, and understanding multiple viewpoints.

Summer Reading: Rising 11th Grade - 2020

Students are to read both books.

***Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson**

“Not since Atticus Finch has a fearless and committed lawyer made such a difference in the American South. Though larger than life, Atticus exists only in fiction. Bryan Stevenson, however, is very much alive and doing God’s work fighting for the poor, the oppressed, the voiceless, the vulnerable, the outcast, and those with no hope. *Just Mercy* is his inspiring and powerful story.”—John Grisham

***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 - 2020

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.

***A Separate Peace* by John Knowles**

Gene was a lonely introverted intellectual. Phineas was a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happened between them at school one summer during World War II is the subject of this moving best seller.

Summer Reading: Rising 9th Grade - 2020

Students are to read both books.

***War Child: A Child Soldier's Story* by Emmanuel Jal, Megan Lloyd Davies**

ISBN-10: 0312602979

ISBN-13: 978-0312602970

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 Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak**

ISBN-10: 0375842209

ISBN-13: 978-0375842207

Liesel Meminger is only nine years old when she is taken to live with the Hubermanns, a foster family, on Himmel Street in Molching, Germany, in the late 1930s. She arrives with few possessions, but among them is *The Grave Digger's Handbook*, a book that she stole from her brother's burial place. During the years that Liesel lives with the Hubermanns, Hitler becomes more powerful, life on Himmel Street becomes more fearful, and Liesel becomes a full-fledged book thief. She rescues books from Nazi book-burnings and steals from the library of the mayor. Liesel is illiterate when she steals her first book, but Hans Hubermann uses her prized books to teach her to read. This is a story of courage, friendship, love, survival, death, and grief. This is Liesel's life on Himmel Street, told from Death's point of view.

Summer Reading: Rising 8th Grade - 2020

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 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, on things for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won’t stop him from playing one last game!

Summer Reading: Rising 7th Grade - 2020

Students are to read both books.

- ***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.

- ***City of Ghosts* by Victoria Schwab**

Ever since Cass almost drowned (okay, she did drown, but she doesn't like to think about it), she can pull back the Veil that separates the living from the dead . . . and enter the world of spirits. Her best friend is even a ghost.

So things are already pretty strange. But they're about to get much stranger.

When Cass's parents start hosting a TV show about the world's most haunted places, the family heads off to Edinburgh, Scotland. Here, graveyards, castles, and secret passageways teem with restless phantoms. And when Cass meets a girl who shares her "gift," she realizes how much she still has to learn about the Veil -- and herself.

And she'll have to learn fast. The city of ghosts is more dangerous than she ever imagined.

Summer Reading: Rising 6th Grade - 2020

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 Apothecary* by Maile Meloy**

This novel is a mixture of historical fiction and fantasy set in 1952 London amidst the Cold War.

“Even those with a vague understanding of the times will be quickly swept up in this thoroughly enjoyable adventure, filled with magic, humor, memorable characters, and just a bit of sweet romance. With evocative, confident prose and equally atmospheric spot art.” - *Publishers Weekly*

“... intricately constructed plot, well-paced suspense, credibly rendered fantastical elements, thoughtfully drawn characters and authentically detailed settings, satisfies on all levels.” - *New York Times*