

Summer Reading: Rising 12th Grade - 2022

First book, for all rising seniors:

***The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald**

“Set in Jazz Age New York, the novel tells the tragic story of Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire, and his pursuit of Daisy Buchanan, a wealthy young woman whom he loved in his youth.

Unsuccessful upon publication, the book is now considered a classic of American fiction and has often been called the Great American Novel.” --Encyclopedia Britannica

Second book for English 12 Honors only: ***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*

Second book for AP Literature and Composition only: ***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.” --Barnes & Noble

Summer Reading: Rising 11th Grade - 2022

Students are to read both books.

Into the Wild by John Krakauer

"In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of *Into the Wild*."

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

"Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever."

"Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice."

Summer Reading: Rising 10th Grade - 2022

Students are to read both books.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

"Card has taken the venerable science fiction concepts of a superman and interstellar war against aliens, and, with superb characterization, pacing and language, combined them into a seamless story of compelling power. This is Card at the height of his very considerable powers—a major science fiction novel by any reasonable standards." (Booklist)

"The author says that the origins of the novel are all about leadership. The novel asks: What does it take to successfully lead men into battle? Despite Ender's age, this is not a children's novel. Its profound themes call for intelligent teens who appreciate a complex novel." (School Library Journal)

Awards: Nebula Award/Finalist, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, NY Public Library 100 Best Titles, ALA Recommended Reading - Outstanding Books for the College Bound.

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger

"A superb literary novel." — New York Journal of Books

"One cannot read *Ordinary Grace* without feeling as if it is destined to be hailed as a classic work of literature. *Ordinary Grace* is one of those very rare books in which one regrets reaching its end, knowing that the experience of having read it for the first time will never be repeated. Krueger, who is incapable of writing badly, arguably has given us his masterpiece." — BookReporter.com

"A novel that transforms narrator and reader alike." — Kirkus Reviews (starred)

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

WINNER OF THE 2014 EDGAR AWARD FOR BEST NOVEL

WINNER OF THE 2014 DILYS AWARD

A SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL BEST BOOK OF 2013

Summer Reading: Rising 9th Grade - 2022

Students are to read both books.

***Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly**

ISBN-10: 0062363603

ISBN-13: 978-0062363602 **ISBN-13:** 9780062677280

The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space. Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. Among these problem-solvers were a group of exceptionally talented African American women. Originally math teachers in the South's segregated public schools, these gifted professionals answered Uncle Sam's call during the labor shortages of World War II. With new jobs at the fascinating, high-energy world of the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in Hampton, Virginia, they finally had a shot at jobs that would push their skills to the limits. Even as Virginia's Jim Crow laws required them to be segregated from their white counterparts, the women of Langley's all-black "West Computing" group helped America achieve one of the things it desired most: a decisive victory over the Soviet Union in the Cold War, and complete domination of the heavens. Starting in World War II and moving through to the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement and the Space Race, *Hidden Figures* follows the interwoven accounts of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden—four African American women who participated in some of NASA's greatest successes. It chronicles their careers over nearly three decades as they faced challenges, forged alliances, and used their intellect to change their own lives, and their country's future.

***Murder on the Orient Express: A Hercule Poirot Mystery* by Agatha Christie**

ISBN-10: 0062073508

ISBN-13: 978-0062073501

"The murderer is with us—on the train now . . ."

Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning, the millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Without a shred of doubt, one of his fellow passengers is the murderer. Isolated by the storm, detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer among a dozen of the dead man's enemies, before the murderer decides to strike again.

Summer Reading: Rising 8th Grade - 2022

Students are to read both books.

- ***Peak* by Roland Smith**

“Peak is a fourteen-year-old boy who finds himself in trouble after illegally climbing a skyscraper in New York. Peak’s long-lost father comes to his rescue, but with strings attached. With selfish motives, he wants Peak to be the youngest person to reach the Everest Summit. Will Peak risk everything to appease his father’s demands, including his life? There are a lot of mountains left for Peak to climb, both metaphorically and literally.”

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

“Ever since Cass drowned, 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 7th Grade - 2022

Students are to read both books.

- ***Out Of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper**

“Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. She's the smartest kid in her whole school - but no one knows it, because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write. Melody's story is one full of heartache and hope. Get ready to meet a girl whose voice you'll never, ever forget.”

- ***A Long Walk To Water* by Linda Sue Park**

“A Long Walk to Water tells the stories of two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, Nya, a girl in 2008, and Salva, a boy in 1985, in alternating sections. Salva Dut is chased from his village and family by militants at the age of 11. He becomes a “Lost Boy” of Sudan and completes many dangerous treks to refugee camps before being adopted into an American family. Salva’s narrative parallels that of Nya, an 11-year-old Nuer girl who walks eight hours a day to retrieve life-saving water for her family. Their stories eventually intersect, in both an astonishing and moving way.”

Summer Reading: Rising 6th Grade - 2022

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

"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**

Starred Review, *Booklist*: “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.”

Aurealis Award 2004

Children's Book Council of Australia Notable Book 2005

IRA/CBC Choice

YALSA Popular Paperbacks

YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant YA