

Monroe Township High School

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June 2021

Dear Parents or Guardians:

The Language Arts Department of Monroe Township High School is dedicated to preparing college and career-ready students. Equally important to us is fostering a love of reading that will last a lifetime. To achieve these goals, teachers have worked collaboratively to design a summer reading program that will provide students with a choice of high-interest literature that is either linked by genre or theme to the grade-level curriculum, or connects to the teenage experience. Students should choose a book from the recommended list and read as many other books, articles, essays and other forms of text of their choice over the summer. Additionally, students are strongly encouraged to take notes and annotate text by using post-it notes or marking it directly (if the copy belongs to the student). On the attached pages are recommended titles for each grade level; students are encouraged to seek out books they want to read and continue to hone their personal reading preferences. We also suggest listening to audiobook versions of these, or any other titles, as well as podcasts on topics of interest. Students will engage in class activities in the fall that utilize their range of reading, helping to build a community of readers in every classroom.

Books are available at the Monroe Township Public Library, local bookstores, or internet booksellers (Amazon, BN.com). Audio versions of many titles are also available through the Monroe Township Public Library and through Learning Ally (for students approved for an account, these are marked with an *). We encourage parents to take an active role in helping their children select literature as well as discuss the topics and themes in the books selected. In order to do this effectively, we recommend Good Reads (www.goodreads.com), Common Sense Media (www.common Sense Media.org), and School Library Journal (www.slj.com). These sites contain synopses, reviews, and recommended discussion points for thousands of titles. The librarians at the Monroe Township Public Library are also valuable resources to help find engaging titles. Care has been taken to ensure there is accessibility for a range of reading levels and interests, and we encourage those who need assistance navigating the list to ask a teacher or case manager for assistance.

This information will also be published on the district homepage. To promote our summer reading initiative, Monroe Township School District will be hosting an in-store and online bookfair through Barnes & Noble Princeton beginning June 10th. A portion of the proceeds from sales will go to fund books for classroom libraries in the district. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you and enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,



Kelly F. Roselle, Ed.D.
Supervisor of Language Arts, ESL/Bilingual,
World Language, and Media Literacy

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Monroe Township High School

Summer Reading 2021

Synopses provided by the descriptions available on the Monroe Township Public Library catalog and School Library Journal.

Grade 9	
Title and Synopsis	Author(s)
<p><i>Clap When You Land</i> Camino and Yahaira, two teenagers in different countries who have never met, are suddenly thrust into each other's lives when their biological father dies in a plane crash. They piece together their Papi's life in New York and the Dominican Republic, joining their partial memories to finally see the whole person. Told in alternate narratives, this novel in verse is a cathartic exploration of grief, love, and family secrets.</p>	Elizabeth Acevedo
<p><i>We Are Not Free</i> Fourteen narrators, all born in the United States and of Japanese descent, provide viewpoints after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. They and their families are no longer trusted, and the Exclusion Orders mean forced relocation. This novel is moving, personal, and well researched, with abundant curricular tie-ins and a realistic range of authentic character reactions, from "Don't make trouble" to "How dare they require this of us?"</p>	Traci Chee
<p><i>Vincent and Theo- The Van Gogh Brothers</i> The deep and enduring friendship between Vincent and Theo Van Gogh shaped both brothers' lives. Confidant, champion, sympathizer, friend, Theo supported Vincent as he struggled to find his path in life. They shared everything, swapping stories of lovers and friends, successes and disappointments, dreams and ambitions. Meticulously researched, drawing on the 658 letters Vincent wrote to Theo during his lifetime, Deborah Heiligman weaves a tale of two lives intertwined and the love of the Van Gogh brothers.</p>	Deborah Heiligman
<p><i>Frankly In Love</i> High school senior Frank Li is a Limbo--his term for Korean-American kids who find themselves caught between their parents' traditional expectations and their own Southern California upbringing. His parents have one rule when it comes to romance--"Date Korean"--which proves complicated when Frank falls for Brit Means, who is smart, beautiful--and white. Fellow Limbo Joy Song is in a similar predicament, and so they make a pact: they'll pretend to date each other in order to gain their freedom. Frank thinks it's the perfect plan, but in the end, Frank and Joy's fake-dating maneuver leaves him wondering if he ever really understood love--or himself--at all.</p>	David Yoon
<p><i>Unwind*</i> The Second Civil War was fought over reproductive rights. The chilling resolution: Life is inviolable from the moment of conception until age thirteen. Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, however, parents can have their child "unwound," whereby all of the child's organs are transplanted into different donors, so life doesn't technically end. Connor is too difficult for his parents to control. Risa, a ward of the state, is not enough to be kept alive. And Lev is a tithe, a child conceived and raised to be unwound. Together, they may have a chance to escape and to survive.</p>	Neal Shusterman
<p><i>Salt to the Sea*</i> A group of teenage refugees meet on the road in the chaotic countryside of East Prussia in winter 1945. The Nazi Reich is collapsing all around them, and they, like hundreds of thousands, are fleeing the wrathful Soviet advance. In this novel, Sepetys crafts four fictionalized, but historically accurate, voices to convey the real-life tragedy.</p>	Rupa Sepetys
<p><i>I Will Always Write Back*</i> The true story of an all-American girl and a boy from an impoverished city in Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever. It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. All the other kids picked countries like France or Germany, but when Caitlin saw Zimbabwe written on the board, it sounded like the most exotic place she had ever heard of--so she chose it. That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.</p>	Caitlin Alifirenka Martin Ganda
<p><i>This One Summer (graphic novel)</i> Every summer, Rose goes with her mom and dad to a lake house in Awago Beach. It's their getaway, their refuge. Rosie's friend Windy is always there, too, like the little sister she never had. But this summer is different. Rose's mom</p>	Mariko Tamaki

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and dad won't stop fighting, and when Rose and Windy seek a distraction from the drama, they find themselves with a whole new set of problems. It's a summer of secrets and sorrow and growing up, and it's a good thing Rose and Windy have each other. In <i>This One Summer</i> , two stellar creators redefine the teen graphic novel.	
Long Way Down* This is New York Times bestseller Jason Reynolds's fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, <i>Long Way Down</i> is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence. (<i>graphic novel available</i>)	Jason Reynolds
Piecing Me Together* Jade believes she must get out of her neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother says she has to take every opportunity. She has. She accepted a scholarship to a mostly-white private school and even Saturday morning test prep opportunities. But some opportunities feel more demeaning than helpful. Like an invitation to join Women to Women, a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. Except really, it's for black girls. From "bad" neighborhoods. Friendships, race, privilege, identity—this compelling and thoughtful story explores the issues young women face.	Renee Watson
The Crossover* "With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood. (<i>graphic novel available</i>)	Kwame Alexander
Spare Parts* In 2004, four Latino teenagers arrived at the Marine Advanced Technology Education Robotics Competition at the University of California, Santa Barbara. They were born in Mexico but raised in Phoenix, Arizona, where they attended an underfunded public high school. No one had ever suggested to Oscar, Cristian, Luis, or Lorenzo that they might amount to much - but two inspiring science teachers had convinced these impoverished, undocumented kids from the desert who had never even seen the ocean that they should try to build an underwater robot.	Joshua Davis
Shame the Stars In the midst of racial conflict and at the edges of a war at the Texas-Mexico border in 1915, Joaquin and Dulceña attempt to maintain a secret romance in this reimagining of Romeo and Juliet.	Guadalupe Garcia McCall
Six of Crows* Ketterdam: a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price—and no one knows that better than criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can't pull it off alone. . .	Leigh Bardugo
Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice* Bryan Stevenson delves deep into the broken U.S. justice system, detailing from his personal experience his many challenges and efforts as a lawyer and social advocate, especially on behalf of America's most rejected and marginalized people.	Bryan Stevenson

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Grade 10	
Title and Synopsis	Author(s)
<p>Ordinary Hazards Growing up with a mother suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and a mostly absent father, Nikki Grimes found herself terrorized by babysitters, shunted from foster family to foster family, and preyed upon by those she trusted. At the age of six, she poured her pain onto a piece of paper late one night - and discovered the magic and impact of writing. For many years, Nikki's notebooks were her most enduring companions. In this accessible and inspiring memoir that will resonate with young readers and adults alike, Nikki shows how the power of those words helped her conquer the hazards - ordinary and extraordinary - of her life.</p>	Nikki Grimes
<p>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You* Reveals the history of racist ideas in America from 1415 to the present while explaining their endurance and capacity for being discredited.</p>	Jason Reynolds Ibram X. Kendi
<p>Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda* When an email falls into the wrong hands, sixteen-year-old, not-so-openly gay Simon is blackmailed into playing wingman for a classmate or risk having his sexual identity revealed and the privacy of the boy he's been emailing compromised.</p>	Becky Albertalli
<p>The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh* This balanced biographical account centers on Charles Lindbergh, the first pilot to complete a solo transatlantic flight. Fleming examines Lindbergh's complicated life, including his rather unusual childhood, his years flying in obscurity, the kidnapping of his son, and his pro-Nazi Germany and anti-immigrant rhetoric.</p>	Candace Fleming
<p>1984* Among the seminal texts of the 20th century, Nineteen Eighty-Four is a rare work that grows more haunting as its futuristic purgatory becomes more real. Published in 1949, the book offers political satirist George Orwell's nightmarish vision of a totalitarian, bureaucratic world and one poor stiff's attempt to find individuality. The brilliance of the novel is Orwell's prescience of modern life—the ubiquity of television, the distortion of the language—and his ability to construct such a thorough version of hell. Required reading for students since it was published, it ranks among the most terrifying novels ever written.</p>	George Orwell
<p>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* Being a teenager is both wonderful and challenging. In <i>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i>, author Sean Covey applies the timeless principles of the 7 Habits to teens and the tough issues and life-changing decisions they face. In an entertaining style, Covey provides a step-by-step guide to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, get along with their parents, and much more. In addition, this book is stuffed with cartoons, clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world. <i>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i> will engage teenagers unlike any other book.</p>	Sean Covey
<p>Daisy Jones & the Six A gripping novel about the whirlwind rise of an iconic 1970s rock group and their beautiful lead singer, revealing the mystery behind their infamous break up. Everyone knows Daisy Jones & The Six, but nobody knows the real reason why they split at the absolute height of their popularity...until now. Daisy is a girl coming of age in L.A. in the late sixties, sneaking into clubs on the Sunset Strip, sleeping with rock stars, and dreaming of singing at the Whisky a Go-Go. The sex and drugs are thrilling, but it's the rock and roll she loves most. By the time she's twenty, her voice is getting noticed, and she has the kind of heedless beauty that makes people do crazy things. Another band getting noticed is The Six, led by the brooding Billy Dunne. On the eve of their first tour, his girlfriend Camila finds out she's pregnant, and with the pressure of impending fatherhood and fame, Billy goes a little wild on the road. Daisy and Billy cross paths when a producer realizes the key to supercharged success is to put the two together. What happens next will become the stuff of legend.</p>	Taylor Jenkins Reid
<p>Dear Martin* Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out.</p>	Nic Stone

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<p><i>I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter</i> *</p> <p>When the sister who delighted their parents by her faithful embrace of Mexican culture dies in a tragic accident, Julia, who longs to go to college and move into a home of her own, discovers from mutual friends that her sister may not have been as perfect as believed.</p>	Erika Sánchez
<p><i>Tweet Cute</i></p> <p>All's fair in love and cheese — that is, until Pepper and Jack's spat turns into a viral Twitter war. Little do they know, while they're publicly duking it out with snarky memes and retweet battles, they're also falling for each other in real life — on an anonymous chat app Jack built.</p> <p>As their relationship deepens and their online shenanigans escalate — <i>people on the internet are shipping them??</i> — their battle gets more and more personal, until even these two rivals can't ignore they were destined for the most unexpected, awkward, all-the-feels romance that neither of them expected.</p>	Emma Lord
<p><i>Between the Raven and the Dove</i></p> <p>For as long as she can remember, thirteen-year-old Mag has lived with her father at a home for the mentally ill. The patients are all clearly mad, so when the usually silent Grace claims that she's Mag's real mother — and also a witch — Mag's world is turned upside down. As things take a turn for the weird, and Mag sees things that others can't, it may just be that she is a witch after all. In this new world, Mag discovers that the difference between good and evil isn't exactly black and white...</p>	Sophia Kingshill
<p><i>#murdertrending</i></p> <p>Falsely accused of murdering her stepsister, seventeen-year-old Dee fights to survive paid assassins on Alcatraz 2.0, the most popular prison on social media.</p>	Gretchen McNeil
<p><i>War Girls</i></p> <p>The year is 2172. Climate change and nuclear disasters have rendered much of earth unlivable. Only the lucky ones have escaped to space colonies in the sky. In a war-torn Nigeria, battles are fought using flying, deadly mechs and soldiers are outfitted with bionic limbs and artificial organs meant to protect them from the harsh, radiation-heavy climate. Across the nation, as the years-long civil war wages on, survival becomes the only way of life. Two sisters, Onyii and Ify, dream of more. Their lives have been marked by violence and political unrest. Still, they dream of peace, of hope, of a future together. And they're willing to fight an entire war to get there.</p>	Tochi Onyebuchi
<p><i>Two Can Keep a Secret</i></p> <p>While true-crime aficionado Ellery and her twin brother are staying with their grandmother in a Vermont community known for murder, a new friend goes missing and Ellery may be next.</p>	Karen M. McManus
<p><i>We Hunt the Flame</i></p> <p>Zafira is the Hunter, disguising herself as a man when she braves the cursed forest of the Arz to feed her people. Nasir is the Prince of Death, assassinating those foolish enough to defy his autocratic father, the sultan. If Zafira was exposed as a girl, all of her achievements would be rejected; if Nasir displayed his compassion, his father would punish him in the most brutal of ways. Both Zafira and Nasir are legends in the kingdom of Arawiya—but neither wants to be.</p> <p>War is brewing, and the Arz sweeps closer with each passing day, engulfing the land in shadow. When Zafira embarks on a quest to uncover a lost artifact that can restore magic to her suffering world and stop the Arz, Nasir is sent by the sultan on a similar mission: retrieve the artifact and kill the Hunter. But an ancient evil stirs as their journey unfolds—and the prize they seek may pose a threat greater than either can imagine.</p>	Hafsah Faizal

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Grade 11

Title and Synopsis	Author(s)
<p>Watch Us Rise Jasmine and Chelsea are best friends on a mission--they're sick of the way women are treated even at their progressive NYC high school, so they decide to start a Women's Rights Club. They post their work online--poems, essays, videos of Chelsea performing her poetry, and Jasmine's response to the racial microaggressions she experiences--and soon they go viral. But with such positive support, the club is also targeted by trolls. When things escalate in real life, the principal shuts the club down. Not willing to be silenced, Jasmine and Chelsea will risk everything for their voices--and those of other young women--to be heard. These two dynamic, creative young women stand up and speak out in a novel that features their compelling art and poetry along with powerful personal journeys that will inspire readers and budding poets, feminists, and activists.</p>	Renée Watson Ellen Hagan
<p>Poisoned Water: How the Citizens of Flint, Michigan, Fought for Their Lives and Warned the Nation A multisystem failure created an atrocity, but no one was listening. Cooper and Aronson skillfully document the plight of the residents of Flint, MI, in a heart-pounding narrative that reads better than any fictional thriller.</p>	Candy Cooper w/ Marc Aronson
<p>We Are Not From Here Concluding that there is no future for them in Guatemala, Pequeña and brothers Pulga and Chico take off north, following the tracks of La Bestia and risking everything, including their lives, to reach the U.S. border. Desperation permeates the pages, as Sanchez's richly drawn characters confront the lack of legal options and the undaunted hope of those compelled to attempt the journey.</p>	Jenny Torres Sanchez
<p>Invisible Differences (graphic novel) Marguerite feels awkward, struggling every day to stay productive at work and keep up appearances with friends. She's sensitive, irritable at times. She makes her environment a fluffy, comforting cocoon, alienating her boyfriend. The everyday noise and stimuli assaults her senses, the constant chatter of her coworkers working her last nerve. Then, when one big fight with her boyfriend finds her frustrated and dejected, Marguerite finally investigates the root of her discomfort: after a journey of tough conversations with her loved ones, doctors, and the internet, she discovers that she has Aspergers. Her life is profoundly changed – for the better</p>	Julie Daschez
<p>Adulthood (poetry) This diverse collection of work from YouTube sensation "The Gabbie Show," takes readers through her ascension into adulthood and all the trials and tribulations along the way. From sing song-y lyrical poems to refined confessional-type pieces, the journey Gabbie takes readers on is one of extreme relevance and honesty.</p>	Gabbie Hanna
<p>Where'd You Go, Bernadette? When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled, and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her.</p>	Maria Semple
<p>Joy Luck Club* <i>Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.</i></p>	Amy Tan
<p>Lore Every seven years, the Agon begins. As punishment for a past rebellion, nine Greek gods are forced to walk the earth as mortals, hunted by the descendants of ancient bloodlines, all eager to kill a god and seize their divine power and immortality. Long ago, Lore Perseus fled that brutal world in the wake of her family's sadistic murder by a rival line, turning her back on the hunt's promises of eternal glory. For years she's pushed away any thought of revenge against the man--now a god--responsible for their deaths. Yet as the next hunt dawns over New York City, two participants seek out her help: Castor, a childhood friend of Lore believed long dead, and a gravely wounded Athena, among the last of the original gods. The goddess offers an alliance against their mutual enemy and, at last, a way for Lore to leave the Agon behind forever. But Lore's decision to bind her fate to Athena's and rejoin the hunt will come at a deadly cost--and still may not be enough to stop the rise of a new god with the power to bring humanity to its knees</p>	Alexandra Bracken
<p>Circe</p>	Madeline

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<p>Winner of the Goodreads Choice Award for Fantasy, <i>Circe</i> is the story of the mythological sorceress who transforms her enemies into monsters and crosses paths with some of the most famous figures in mythology, from Daedalus to Zeus. Miller's prose in this novel contains vividly crafted characters and spells, while exploring themes of family rivalry, palace intrigue, and female strength in a world of male-dominated gods and mortals.</p>	Miller
<p><i>Black Girl Unlimited: The Remarkable Story of a Teenage Wizard</i> Echo Brown is a wizard from the East Side, where apartments are small and parents suffer addictions to the white rocks. Yet there is magic . . . everywhere. New portals begin to open when Echo transfers to the rich school on the West Side, and an insightful teacher becomes a pivotal mentor. Each day, Echo travels between two worlds, leaving her brothers, her friends, and a piece of herself behind on the East Side. There are dangers to leaving behind the place that made you. Echo soon realizes there is pain flowing through everyone around her, and a black veil of depression threatens to undo everything she's worked for.</p>	Echo Brown
<p><i>Dear Evan Hansen*</i> An original musical that explores the poignant desire for human connection in the tumultuous life of one young man. Evan is shy, lonely, and bullied for it -- teeming with the irrepressible emotions all too familiar with anyone who's ever been a teenager. After a tragedy strikes, Evan's life suddenly gets turned around, but is it ultimately for the better?</p>	Val Emmich, Steven Levenson, Benj Pasek, Justin Paul
<p><i>Hey Kiddo (graphic novel)*</i> <i>Hey, Kiddo</i> is a profoundly important memoir in graphic novel form about growing up in a family grappling with addiction, and finding the art that helps you survive.</p>	Jarrett Krosoczka
<p><i>Fahrenheit 451 (graphic novel)*</i> A dystopian novel by American writer Ray Bradbury, first published in 1953. Often regarded as one of his best works, the novel presents a future American society where books are outlawed and "firemen" burn any that are found.</p>	Ray Bradbury
<p><i>Gift from the Sea*</i> In this inimitable, beloved classic—graceful, lucid and lyrical—Anne Morrow Lindbergh shares her meditations on youth and age; love and marriage; peace, solitude and contentment as she set them down during a brief vacation by the sea. Drawing inspiration from the shells on the shore, Lindbergh's musings on the shape of a woman's life bring new understanding to both men and women at any stage of life. A mother of five, an acclaimed writer and a pioneering aviator, Lindbergh casts an unsentimental eye on the trappings of modernity that threaten to overwhelm us: the time-saving gadgets that complicate rather than simplify, the multiple commitments that take us from our families. And by recording her thoughts during a brief escape from everyday demands, she helps readers find a space for contemplation and creativity within their own lives.</p>	Anne Morrow Lindbergh
<p><i>On the Clock: What Low-Wage Work Did to Me and How It Drives America Insane</i> Across three jobs, and in three different parts of the country, Guendelsberger directly took part in the revolution changing the U.S. workplace. Offering an up-close portrait of America's actual "essential workers," <i>On the Clock</i> examines the broken social safety net as well as an economy that has purposely had all the slack drained out and converted to profit. Until robots pack boxes, resolve billing issues, and make fast food, human beings supervised by AI will continue to get the job done. Guendelsberger shows us how workers went from being the most expensive element of production to the cheapest – and how low wage jobs have been remade to serve the ideals of efficiency, at the cost of humanity.</p>	Emily Guendelsberger

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Grade 12

Title and Synopsis	Author(s)
<p><i>Hope Nation*</i> Hope is a decision, but it is a hard one to recognize in the face of oppression, belittlement, alienation, and defeat. To help embolden hope, here is a powerhouse collection of essays and personal stories that speak directly to teens and all YA readers. Featuring Angie Thomas, Marie Lu, James Dashner, Nicola Yoon, David Levithan, Libba Bray, Jason Reynolds, Renée Ahdieh, and many more!</p>	Rose Brock (editor)
<p><i>Grown</i> When legendary R&B artist Korey Fields spots Enchanted Jones at an audition, her dreams of being a famous singer take flight. Until Enchanted wakes up with blood on her hands and zero memory of the previous night. Who killed Korey Fields? Before there was a dead body, Enchanted's dreams had turned into a nightmare. Because behind Korey's charm and star power was a controlling dark side. Now he's dead, the police are at the door, and all signs point to Enchanted</p>	Tiffany D. Jackson
<p><i>Not So Pure and Simple</i> Del attends church to get his crush Kiera's attention. When she and other teens approach the altar during a service, Del joins them to get close to Kiera, then realizes he just became a Purity Pledger, promising to stay sexually pure until marriage. With humor and honesty, this novel addresses the impact of sexism, social media, religion, and adults' fears of teen sexuality, adeptly showing how even "good guys" indulge in toxic masculinity.</p>	Lamar Giles
<p><i>The Black Kids</i> Los Angeles, 1992: While the city is consumed with protests after the beating of Rodney King, wealthy Black high school senior Ashley contemplates her own perceptions of her race and those of her classmates as she attends a predominantly white school—a realistic journey to action filled with detours and new discoveries. This is a nuanced and authentic coming-of-age story with pitch-perfect historical details and timeless themes.</p>	Christina Hammonds Reed
<p><i>You Too?: 25 Voices Share Their #MeToo Stories</i> Authors detail their experiences of sexual harassment, trauma, exploitation, and assault in this revelatory, empowering collection that emphasizes speaking up and the importance of the support and community that many have found in the #MeToo movement.</p>	Janet Gurtler
<p><i>The Plot Against America*</i> The Plot Against America is a novel by Philip Roth published in 2004. It is an alternative history in which Franklin D. Roosevelt is defeated in the presidential election of 1940 by Charles Lindbergh.</p>	Philip Roth
<p><i>Something I've Been Meaning To Tell You</i> In the thirteen stories in her remarkable second collection, Alice Munro demonstrates the precise observation, straightforward prose style, and masterful technique that led no less a critic than John Updike to compare her to Chekhov. The sisters, mothers and daughters, aunts, grandmothers, and friends in these stories shimmer with hope and love, anger and reconciliation, as they contend with their histories and their present, and what they can see of the future.</p>	Alice Munro
<p><i>Childhood's End*</i> The author questions the survival of mankind in this science fiction tale about Overlords from outer space who dominate the world.</p>	Arthur C. Clarke
<p><i>Freakonomics*</i> Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool? What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? How much do parents really matter? These may not sound like typical questions for an economist to ask. But Steven D. Levitt is not a typical economist. He studies the riddles of everyday life—from cheating and crime to parenting and sports—and reaches conclusions that turn conventional wisdom on its head. Freakonomics is a groundbreaking collaboration between Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, an award-winning author and journalist. They set out to explore the inner workings of a crack gang, the truth about real estate agents, the secrets of the Ku Klux Klan, and much more. Through forceful storytelling and wry insight, they show that economics is, at root, the study of incentives—how people get what they want or need, especially when other people want or need the same thing.</p>	Steven D. Levitt Stephen J. Dubner
<p><i>Red Dragon</i> Will Graham's unusual, fearful ability to project himself into the minds of psychopaths puts him on the trail of Francis Dolorhyde, whose bizarre and bloody murders of two suburban families have been triggered by his viewing of a William Blake watercolor.</p>	Thomas Harris

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<p>Unbroken The 13 stories in this brilliant anthology feature teenagers with physical disabilities, mental illness, anxiety disorders, or autism. The authors of the stories are all people with various disabilities as well, and the stories themselves cover a range of genres.</p>	<p>Marieke Nijkamp (editor)</p>
<p>Caste (The Origins of Our Discontent) Wilkerson reframes the United States' history of racial disparities and racism as a classic caste system, and compares America's caste system with those operating in India and Nazi-era Germany. She identifies the eight "pillars of caste" that can be clearly observed in all three systems. In one very memorable and disturbing passage, she describes how the Jim Crow laws of the American South served as inspiration and model for the anti-Semitic, racist Nuremberg laws enacted in 1935 Germany.</p>	<p>Isabel Wilkerson</p>
<p>The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* It is a tale of revolution, of the rebellion of a former penal colony on the Moon against its masters on the Earth. It is a tale of a culture whose family structures are based on the presence of two men for every woman, leading to novel forms of marriage and family. It is the story of the disparate people, a computer technician, a vigorous young female agitator, and an elderly academic who become the movement's leaders, and of Mike, the supercomputer whose sentience is known only to the revolt's inner circle, who for reasons of his own is committed to the revolution's ultimate success.</p>	<p>Robert A. Heinlein</p>
<p>In Waves (graphic novel memoir) Debuting comics artist Dungo weaves a beautiful memoir of love, loss, and surfing, in which a young couple is torn apart by aggressive cancer. Dungo was in high school when he first saw Kristin, and for him, it was love at first sight. For her, not so much. But in chapters that skip back and forth through the 11 years they had together, Dungo recalls their relationship, from the beginning to Kristin's final days, with the lifetime they lived in between. Interspersed with his own story is the modern history of surfing and two of its heroes who changed the course of the sport forever, Duke Kahanamoku and Tom Blake. Dungo tells these stories with a sure hand, weaving time lines and seemingly disparate elements into a rich, cohesive tale. The simply drawn illustrations are elegant and economical but deeply powerful.</p>	<p>AJ Dungo</p>
<p>Felix Ever After Felix Love, a transgender seventeen-year-old, attempts to get revenge by catfishing his anonymous bully, but lands in a quasi-love triangle with his former enemy and his best friend.</p>	<p>Kacen Callender</p>

Excellence is Our Expectation

AP: Language and Composition (Grade 11) <i>Students are to read the first title and choose one between the next two options.</i>	
Title	Author
<p><i>Between the World and Me*</i> In his trademark style -- a mix of lyrical personal narrative, reimagined history, essayistic argument, and reportage -- Coates provides readers a thrillingly illuminating new framework for understanding race: its history, our contemporary dilemma, and where we go from here.</p>	Ta-Nehisi Coates
<i>Choose between either of the following title options:</i>	
<p><i>My Ántonia*</i> A successful lawyer remembers his boyhood in Nebraska and his friendship with an immigrant Bohemian girl.</p>	Willa Cather
<p><i>Everything I Never Told You*</i> A profoundly moving story of family, history, and the meaning of home, Everything I Never Told You is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait, exploring the divisions between cultures and the rifts within a family, and uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives, to understand one another.</p>	Celeste Ng
AP: Literature and Composition (Grade 12) <i>Students are required to read <u>both</u> titles below.</i>	
Title	Author
<p><i>Sanctuary*</i> First published in 1931, this classic psychological melodrama has been viewed as more of a social document in his tragic legend of the South than mere story. From Popeye, a moonshining racketeer with no conscience and Temple Drake, beautiful, bored and vulnerable, to Harace Benbow, a lawyer of honor and decency wishing for more in his life, and Gowan Stevens, college student with a weakness for drink, Faulkner writes of changing social values and order.</p>	William Faulkner
<p><i>It Can't Happen Here*</i> A cautionary tale about the fragility of democracy, an alarming, eerily timeless look at how fascism could take hold in America. Written during the Great Depression when America was largely oblivious to Hitler's aggression, it juxtaposes sharp political satire with the chillingly realistic rise of a President who becomes a dictator to "save the nation." Now finally back in print, It Can't Happen Here remains uniquely important, a shockingly prescient novel that's as fresh and contemporary as today's news.</p>	Sinclair Lewis

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