



Summer Reading Suggestions

This summer, the English Department is offering an alternative to Summer Reading! Instead of working on annotations, journals and other assignments, take this opportunity to find a book YOU want to read and enjoy. For inspiration, check out this list of your teachers' favorites!

Ms. DeLury recommends the timely work of fiction *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas for students interested in the fight for racial equality and activism.

Ms. Dutton recommends *The Number Devil* by Hans Magnus Enzensberger. It's a young-adult novel with beautiful illustrations, about a young boy whose dreams are plagued with visits by the Number Devil -- a dapper red chap who insists on teaching him about prime numbers, the Fibonacci sequence, Pascal's triangle and more.

Mrs. Karlin recommends *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline for a nerdy adventure set in the dystopian future following protagonist Wade Watts as he competes for a fortune in a worldwide virtual reality game. Plus, the movie just came out!

Mrs. Blitz recommends *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The book is written as a letter to the author's son and discusses the realities of race and violence in American culture. Coates writes from his personal experiences growing up in Baltimore as a young Black man.

Mr. Stoker recommends *Blood Meridian* by Cormac McCarthy for anybody interested in a gruesome and imaginative exploration of the "Wild West" that winds along the Rio Grande leading up to the Civil War.

Mr. Tierney recommends *Angels in America* by Tony Kushner for students interested in LGBTQ history. It's a play in two parts set during the early AIDS epidemic of the 1980s. This landmark work explores homosexuality, politics, religion and the supernatural.

Mr. Koslowski recommends *Untwine* by Edwidge Danticat for anyone interested in the relationships between sisters and family after a horrible accident. If you liked *If I Stay*, check out *Untwine*.

Mrs. Hosking recommends *The Power* by Naomi Alderman for anyone who has been hooked by *The Handmaid's Tale* novel or television series. It imagines a world where women have slowly gained control of society because they possess the power to send electric shocks through people. (*Note: this novel explores mature themes and includes scenes of graphic violence*)

Mrs. Kersten recommends *Beyond the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo. It's a non-fiction account that reads like a murder mystery and gives the reader insight into the way India's traditional Caste System interacts with modern democracy and capitalism.

Mrs. McCracken recommends *The Gender Games* by Bella Forrest for readers who enjoy *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent*. In this series, Violet's world is divided by a toxic river in which women rule on one side (Matrus) and men rule the other (Patrus).

Ms. Remington recommends the well-timed work of fiction *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng for students interested in dissecting family dynamics and teenage relationships.





Ms. Carpenter recommends *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr for readers interested in historical fiction set during WWII. The story follows the lives of a young German boy and blind French girl and how their lives are connected.

Mr. Maloney recommends the fantasy novel, *A Wizard of Earthsea*, by Ursula K. Le Guin. Set in the fictional world of Earthsea, the story follows a young boy named Ged who is beginning to explore his unique wizard skills and power. If you like this story, there are four additional novels in The Earthsea Cycle series.

Mrs. Ross recommends *Girl Mans Up* by M-E Girard. The novel follows Penelope "Pen" Oliveira as she struggles with her identity as a girl, her cultural background as a Portuguese-American and being a loyal friend.

Ms. Sweder recommends *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury a beautifully written dystopian novel that explores the effects of censorship, uniformity in thought, and the absence of books on a society. Although this book was written in 1953, it is amazingly prophetic and resonates with what our world is like now. Plus, HBO has a new movie version!

Mrs. Chagnon recommends *The Code Book* by Simon Singh for the analytical mind and students interested in the non-fiction history of math, programming and cryptography.

Mr. Teich recommends *The Martian* by Andy Weir. It's a crazy, yet plausible, story showing how math, chemistry, engineering, physics, botany, planetary science and international relations all come together in a fight for survival. And if you like the book, there's a recent movie with Matt Damon, Sean Bean, Donald Glover and Jessica Chastain!

Ms. Brewster recommends *Breakfast of Champions* by Kurt Vonnegut for students who like a bizarre story with a unique style of writing. The novel combines aspects of science fiction (without overdoing it) with a strange story of two unlikely men coming together and exploring ideas of free will, mental illness, and social and economic cruelty.

Mr. Jabour recommends winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Sweat*, by Lynn Nottage. This timely American tragedy explores race and class in an industrial town struggling to survive during the development of the 2008 financial crisis. (*Note: this play explores mature themes and includes scenes of graphic violence and strong language*)

Mrs. Eden recommends award-winning *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi for a work of historical fiction following the descendants of an African woman from Ghana. The novel covers major historical events starting from cacao trade in Ghana all the way through slavery and segregation in America by following the generations of a single family.

Ms. Quigley recommends the science-fantasy-fiction, *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeleine L' Engle for students looking for an easy and accessible read, but something that makes you think deeply. There's also a movie that came out this year!

Mrs. Jaster recommends *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson. The novel is told in verse by the author as she discusses her childhood growing up African American in the 1960s in North Carolina and New York.

Ms. Post recommends *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War* by Max Brooks because it's so much better than the movie. The novel is a collection of accounts narrated by an agent of the United Nations Postwar Commission following the post-apocalyptic horror of a zombie plague.



