

**Jackson Hole Community School  
Summer Reading 2024**

JHCS students are required to read one book and to write one essay over the summer. Summer reading is assigned by grade level (see below). We encourage students to explore some of the suggested reads (recommendations and reviews made by our school's DEI Club!) found on the back of this page, too. For the essay, each student needs to follow the directions outlined below. Any questions you have regarding summer reading and the required essay should be directed to Dave Baczko at [dbaczko@jhcschool.org](mailto:dbaczko@jhcschool.org). Happy summer!

**Required Summer Reading: (If you have already read your grade-level work, please contact Dave Baczko for additional titles.)**

9<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng

10<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro

11<sup>th</sup> Grade: *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

12<sup>th</sup> Grade: *There There* by Tommy Orange

12<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Bundyville* Podcast by OPR, Season 1 (7 episodes); find it [here](#) or on [Spotify](#); take notes and prepare for graded discussions.

***SUMMER READING ESSAY—***

*Students are required to write an analytical essay that puts forth a clear and persuasive argument/claim (or thesis) addressing ONE of the following prompts. 12<sup>th</sup> grade student essays need to be 3-4 pages long and address only the novel; 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade essays need to be 2-3 pages long (double-spaced). The questions (you need only choose one) are meant to help you form a unique and critical thesis. Using outside sources (such as the internet, AI, tutors, parents, or friends) and claiming those ideas as your own represents a breach of JHCS's Honor Code. Make sure the essay incorporates your own interpretation and be sure to cite specific examples from the text to support your argument.*

*1) Discuss a major theme or symbol that you see throughout the novel. What is the significance of the symbol? How does the author develop the theme to make a larger point?*

*2) Analyze the agenda and message of the author. What is it that the author wants the reader to walk away with? Why might the author have decided to tell the story that he/she did?*

*3) Create a critical response with a focus of your own choosing.*

***DUE DATE for all students: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 in your teacher's mailbox.***

**Suggested Reading**—These lists include works that the English and History Departments at JHCS recommend as worthwhile reads for our students at each grade level.

**Suggested Summer Reading** —The JHCS DEI Club recommends the following books for summer reading.

*(Disclaimer: A few of the suggested texts feature language and detail that might be uncomfortable for some readers. Students should feel free to research the nature of the story before reading it).*

**9th Grade: *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas**

In Thomas's debut novel, she expands from a short story she wrote in college in reaction to the police shooting of Oscar Grant. The book is narrated by Starr Carter, a 16-year-old black girl from a poor neighborhood who attends an elite, predominantly white, private school. Angie Thomas examines how society uses stereotypes against black people in order to justify violence and racism against them. The story explores serious topics around racism, police brutality, and activism.

**10th Grade: *Stamped: Racism, Anti Racism, and You* by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds**

Jason Reynolds explores the history of racism in our country. The novel takes readers on a journey from then to now, explaining why we feel how we feel, how our history has evolved into the systemic racism we know today, and how we can become actively anti-racist every single day. Reynolds inspires hope for an anti-racist future.

**11th Grade: *Just Mercy: Adapted for Young Adults* by Bryan Stevenson**

Bryan Stevenson dives into the United States' broken justice system. Bryan reflects on his own experiences and efforts as a lawyer and advocate, with a focus on the most marginalized and rejected people in America. This is a story about justice and advocating for the wrongly convicted.

**12th Grade: *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah**

Noah's unexpected path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. The stories in this collection are amusing, tragic, and emotionally moving in equal measure. Trevor reveals his unusual world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty, whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard times, getting flung from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or simply attempting to survive the life-and-death hazards of dating in high school.

