



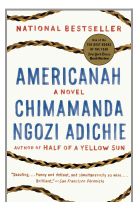
GREENSBORO DAY SCHOOL

Summer Reading

Upper School Choice List

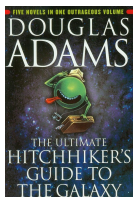
Please choose at least one book from this list or from the “Noteworthy Authors” list on the last page. Read first and foremost for enrichment and enjoyment. Reflect on the books you read and come to school prepared to share your reflections with your peers. You may want to consider things such as why you selected the books, whether the books were enjoyable and why, and how you feel you connected with the books. Reflect on how the books made you think, and what ideas or “take-aways” have remained with you.

Fiction



***Americanah*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

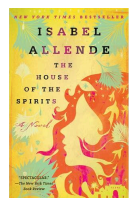
Ifemelu, a smart, irreverent, and outspoken young woman, reluctantly leaves her home and her first love in Nigeria to start a new life in America. A parallel plot line follows Obinze, the man Ifemelu left behind in Lagos, who emigrated to London and longs for a life in America with her. A courageous, world-class novel about independence, integrity, community, love, and what it takes to become a “full human being.”



***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (series), Douglas Adams**

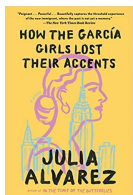
1) *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, 2) *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*, 3) *Life, the Universe, and Everything*, 4) *So Long, and Thanks for all the Fish*, 5) *Mostly Harmless*, 6) *And Another Thing*

A fun series that chronicles the off-beat and extraterrestrial journeys, notions, and acquaintances of galactic traveler Arthur Dent.



***The House of the Spirits*, Isabel Allende**

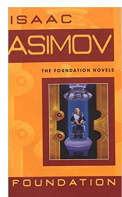
Allende, niece of the Chilean president slain in the military coup of 1973, writes a strong, absorbing family chronicle. The author weaves a luminous tapestry of three generations of the Trueba family, revealing both triumphs and tragedies. An enthralling saga that spans decades and lives, twining the personal and the political into an epic novel of love, magic, and fate. **Contains some mature content.**



***How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, Julia Alvarez**

Recommended for students taking Global Perspectives

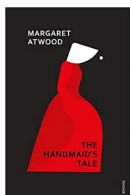
This sensitive story of four sisters who must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic is told through a series of episodes beginning in adulthood, when their lives have been shaped by U.S. mores, and moving backwards to their wealthy childhood on the island. These interconnected vignettes of family life, resilience, and love are skillfully intertwined and offer young adults a perspective on immigration and families as well as a look at America through Hispanic eyes.



The Foundation trilogy, Isaac Asimov

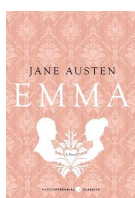
1) *Foundation*, 2) *Foundation and Empire*, 3) *Second Foundation*

A science fiction series that covers a span of about 550 years, consisting of seven total volumes that are closely linked to each other, although they can be read separately. The series collects the author's prophetic stories about humans and their interaction with future technology. In the trilogy, The Foundation, a colony of psychologists, is established after the Old Empire gives way to barbarism and power struggles and intergalactic intrigue ensue.



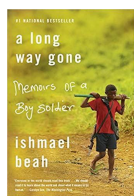
The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood

In a future world, America has become a puritanical theocracy and Offred tells her story as a "handmaid" under the new social order. The birth rate has declined and fertile women are rounded up, indoctrinated as "handmaids," and forced to bear children to prominent men. **Contains some mature content.**



Emma, Jane Austen

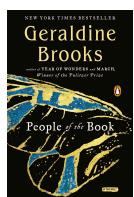
Sparkling comedy of provincial manners concern a well-intentioned young heiress and her matchmaking schemes that result in comic confusion for the people of a 19th-century English village. Droll characterization of the heroine, her hypochondriacal father, and many other finely drawn personalities make this satire of provincial life one of Jane Austen's finest novels.



A Long Way Gone : Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, Ishmael Beah

Recommended for students taking Global Perspectives

In a candid autobiography, a human rights activist offers a firsthand account of war from the perspective of a former child soldier, detailing the violent civil war that wracked his native Sierra Leone and the government forces that transformed a gentle young boy into a killer as a member of the army. **Contains some mature content.**



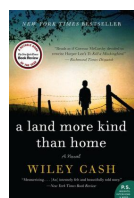
People of the Book, Geraldine Brooks

In 1996, Hanna Heath, a young Australian book conservator, was called to analyze the famed *Sarajevo Haggadah*, a priceless six-hundred-year-old Jewish prayer book that has been salvaged from a destroyed Bosnian library. When Hanna discovers a series of artifacts in the centuries-old binding, she unwittingly exposes an international coverup.



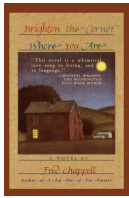
A Clockwork Orange, Anthony Burgess

Told by the central character, Alex, this brilliant, hilarious, and disturbing novel creates an alarming futuristic vision of violence, high technology, and authoritarianism. A classic of twentieth century post-industrial alienation, often shocking us into a thoughtful exploration of the meaning of free will and the conflict between good and evil. **Contains some mature content.**



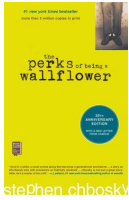
A Land More Kind Than Home, Wiley Cash

Jess Hall, growing up deep in the heart of an unassuming mountain town that believes in protecting its own, is plunged into an adulthood for which he is not prepared when his autistic older brother, Stump, sneaks a look at something he isn't supposed to, which has catastrophic repercussions.



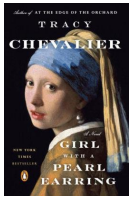
***Brighten the Corner Where You Are*, Fred Chappell**

Recreates the comic episodes that constitute Joe Robert Kirkman's last day as high school teacher in Tipton, North Carolina, in 1946: running afoul of a bobcat in a poplar tree; rescuing a child from drowning; coping creatively with the touchy subject of evolution in his science class; coaxing a goat from a roof; and losing a Socratic argument to the shyest student in his world history class.



***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky**

Charlie is a freshman. And while he's not the biggest geek in the school, he is by no means popular. Shy, introspective, intelligent beyond his years yet socially awkward, he is a wallflower, caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it. This deeply affecting story is told through a series of letters from Charlie to an unknown correspondent, revealing his many coming-of-age trials. **Contains some mature content.**



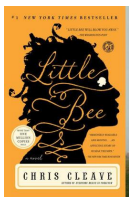
***Girl with a Pearl Earring*, Tracy Chevalier**

Griet, a 16-year-old Dutch girl, becomes a maid in the house of the painter Johannes Vermeer. He slowly draws her into the world of his paintings and ultimately has her sit for him as a model. History and fiction merge seamlessly in a luminous tale of artistic vision, sensual awakening, and daily life in the Netherlands of the 17th-century.



***Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*, Susanna Clarke**

In nineteenth-century England, all is going well for rich, reclusive Mr. Norrell, who has regained some of the power of England's magicians from the past. Norrell uses his powers against Napoleon and the French in 1806 and is soon challenged by Jonathan Strange, a novice magician, who becomes obsessed with the Raven King, the twelfth-century founder of English magic.



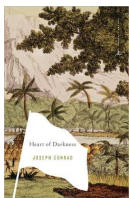
***Little Bee*, Chris Cleave**

The fates of a 16-year-old Nigerian orphan and a well-to-do British couple seeking to repair their strained marriage with a free holiday are joined when the couple decides to stray beyond the walls of their holiday resort on a Nigerian beach.



***Ready Player One*, Ernest Cline**

Immersing himself in a mid-twenty-first-century technological virtual utopia to escape an ugly real world of famine, poverty, and disease, Wade Watts joins an increasingly violent effort to solve a series of puzzles by the virtual world's creator.



***Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad**

Recommended for students taking European History or Global Perspectives

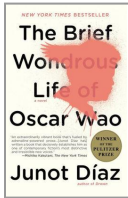
This highly symbolic story is actually a story within a story, or frame narrative. Charlie Marlow sails down the Congo in search of Mr. Kurtz, a company agent who has, according to rumors, become insane and regressed to savagery in the jungle isolation.



***The Leatherstocking Tales series*, James Fenimore Cooper**

1) *The Deerslayer*, 2) *The Last of the Mohicans*, 3) *The Pathfinder*, 4) *The Pioneer*, 5) *The Prairie*

James Fenimore Cooper's epic saga of American frontiersman Natty Bumppo, a young white hunter brought up in the Delaware Indian tribe.



***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, Junot Díaz**

Living with an old-world mother and rebellious sister, an urban New Jersey misfit dreams of becoming the next J. R. R. Tolkien and believes that a long-standing family curse is thwarting his efforts to find love and happiness.



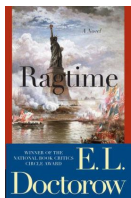
***A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens**

When the starving French masses rise to overthrow a corrupt and decadent government, both the guilty and innocent become victims of their frenzied anger. Soon nothing stands in the way of the chilling figure they enlist for their cause—La Guillotine—the new invention for efficiently chopping off heads.



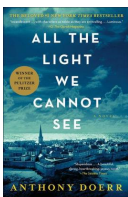
***Out of Africa*, Isak Dinesen**

In describing her experiences managing a coffee plantation in Kenya, the author provides insight into the nature of African life. Rarely does a book on a remote country convey so fully the feeling of the country and the people.



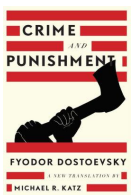
***Ragtime*, E.L. Doctorow**

The famous and infamous whose exploits dominate news headlines at the turn of the twentieth century move in and out of the life of three fictional families. The lives of Harry Houdini, Evelyn Nesbit, Sigmund Freud, Pierpont Morgan, Henry Ford, J.P. Morgan, and Booker T. Washington become entwined with the author's fictional characters. A very funny novel and a high achievement in irony.



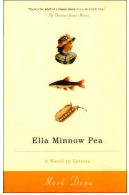
***All the Light We Cannot See*, Anthony Doerr**

A blind French girl on the run from the German occupation and a German orphan turned Resistance tracker struggle with respective beliefs after meeting on the Brittany coast Through their individual and intertwined tales, the author masterfully and knowledgeably re-creates the deprived civilian conditions of war-torn France and the strictly controlled lives of the military occupiers.



***Crime and Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky**

Believing he can commit the perfect crime, Roderick Raskolnikov robs and murders an elderly pawnbroker. He eventually finds himself engaged in a battle of wits with inspector Porfiry, a policeman who is determined to wring a confession from the once confident Raskolnikov, a killer whose conscience is slowly beginning to destroy him.



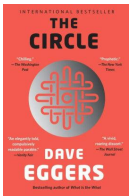
***Ella Minnow Pea*, Mark Dunn**

Ella Minnow Pea is a girl living happily on the fictional island of Nollop off the coast of South Carolina. Nollop was named after Nevin Nollop, author of the immortal pangram, “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.” Now Ella finds herself acting to save her friends, family, and fellow citizens from the encroaching totalitarianism of the island’s Council, which has banned the use of certain letters of the alphabet as they fall from a memorial statue of Nevin Nollop. As the letters progressively drop from the statue they also disappear from the novel. The result is both a hilarious and moving story of one girl’s fight for freedom of expression, as well as a linguistic tour de force sure to delight word lovers everywhere.



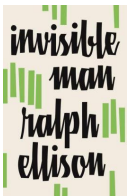
***The Girl Who Fell from the Sky*, Heidi Pitlor**

After a family tragedy orphans her, Rachel, the daughter of a Danish mother and an African-American father, moves to a new city and into her grandmother's mostly black community in the 1980s, where she must swallow her grief and confront her identity as a biracial woman in a world that wants to see her as either black or white. **Contains some mature content.**



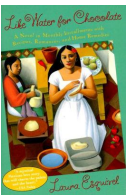
***The Circle*, Dave Eggers**

Hired to work for the Circle, the world's most powerful Internet company, Mae Holland begins to question her luck as life beyond her job grows distant, a strange encounter with a colleague leaves her shaken, and her role at the Circle becomes increasingly public.



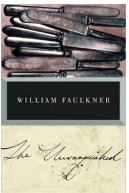
***Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison**

The plight of the African-American in America is presented in the somewhat allegorical story of one young man who in frustration concludes that he is an invisible man. He starts life with trust and illusions but after a shocking experience at a men's club in his Southern hometown and further revealing experiences at a college, he finds his way to Harlem. Some later incidents are brutally shocking, but the idea and the presentation give the book distinctive value.



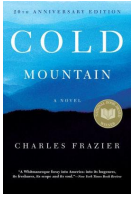
***Like Water for Chocolate*, Laura Esquivel**

Each chapter of this unusual novel is prefaced with a recipe, but the recipes have more to do with romance than food. The heroine, Tita, is the youngest of three daughters. Practically raised in the kitchen, she is expected to spend her life waiting on Mama Elena and never to marry. Tita and Pedro, who is engaged to one of her sisters, are thrown into tantalizing proximity and manage to communicate their affection through the dishes she prepares for him, with surprising results. **Contains some mature content.**



***The Unvanquished*, William Faulkner**

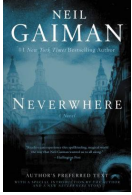
The son of a Southern colonel becomes involved in the family's struggle to maintain the old order during the Civil War era.



***Cold Mountain*, Charles Frazier**

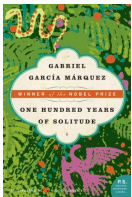
Recommended for students taking United States History

Inman, a wounded Confederate soldier, escapes from a war hospital in 1864 and starts walking to Cold Mountain. His sweetheart Ada struggles to save her mountain farm with the help of Ruby, an illiterate but efficient farmer. Inman finds the land and the girl he remembers as changed by the war as he.



***Neverwhere*, Neil Gaiman**

Richard Mayhew, a bumbling young businessman, is about to discover a new side of London after helping a wounded girl named Door. Richard finds himself living in a city of monsters, saints, murderers, and angels, and he must help Door on her mission to save this strange underworld kingdom from destruction.



***One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Gabriel García Márquez**

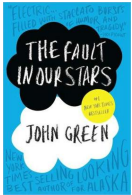
This novel tells the story of the rise and fall of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. It is a rich and brilliant chronicle of life and death, and the tragicomedy of humankind. In the noble, ridiculous, beautiful, and tawdry story of the Buendía family, one sees all of humanity, just as in the history, myths, growth, and decay of Macondo, one sees all of Latin America.



***The Princess Bride*, William Goldman**

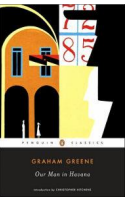
S. Morgenstern's classic tale of true love and high adventure : the 'good parts' version

A classic swashbuckling romance retells the tale of a drunken swordsman and a gentle giant who come to the aid of Westley, a handsome farm boy, and Buttercup, a princess in dire need of rescue from the evil schemers surrounding her.



***The Fault in Our Stars*, John Green**

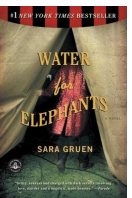
Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at a cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life.



***Our Man in Havana*, Graham Greene**

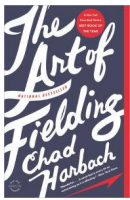
Recommended for students taking United States History

This novel follows the plight of Wormold, a former vacuum cleaner salesman, who becomes a slave to the expensive whims of his thirteen-year-old daughter, Milly, and takes on a job for MI6 as Secret Agent 59200/5 to pay for them.



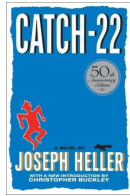
***Water for Elephants*, Sara Gruen**

Nonagenarian Jacob Jankowski reflects back on his wild and wondrous days with a circus. It's the Depression Era, and Jacob—finding himself parentless and penniless—joins the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. Beautifully written, with a luminous sense of time and place, *Water for Elephants* tells of love in a world in which love's a luxury few can afford.



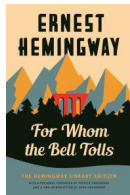
***The Art of Fielding*, Chad Harbach**

A baseball star at a small college near Lake Michigan launches a routine throw that goes disastrously off course and inadvertently changes the lives of five people, including the college president, a gay teammate, and the president's daughter.



***Catch-22*, Joseph Heller**

The contemporary classic depicting the struggles of a United States airman, Captain Yossarian, attempting to survive the lunacy and depravity of a World War II air base. Yossarian, the squadron's lead bombardier, faces a "catch-22" in this comic novel when he wants to fly fewer combat missions.



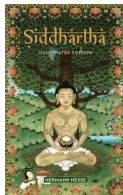
***For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Ernest Hemingway**

The story of an American fighting in the Spanish Civil War, his loyalty and courage, and his eventual disillusionment with love and defeat.



***Dune*, Frank Herbert**

Set on the desert planet Arrakis, this is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, who would become the mysterious man known as Muad'Dib, avenge the traitorous plot against his noble family, and bring to fruition humankind's most ancient and unattainable dream.



***Siddhartha*, Hermann Hesse**

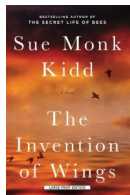
A young man, blessed with loving parents and a safe home in a world where want and neglect abound, leaves this haven in search of himself. He joins the Samanas, a band of wandering ascetics without possessions or earthly ties. His quest unfulfilled, he descends into a life of unbounded luxury and indulgence looking for truth and satisfaction.



***Les Misérables*, Victor Hugo**

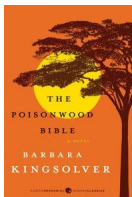
Recommended for students taking European History

The epic story of Jean Valjean, the ex-convict who rises against all odds from galley slave to mayor, and the fanatical police inspector who dedicates his life to recapturing Valjean. A classic tale of repression, revolution, and redemption.



***The Invention of Wings*, Sue Monk Kidd**

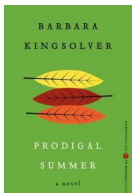
Traces more than three decades in the lives of a wealthy Charleston debutante who longs to break free from the strictures of her household and pursue a meaningful life; and the urban slave, Handful, who is placed in her charge as a child before finding courage and a sense of self.



***The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver**

Recommended for students taking Global Perspectives

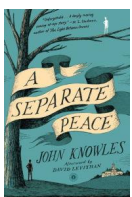
The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary—Nathan Price, his wife, and his four daughters—begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives forever transformed over the course of three decades by the political and social upheaval of Africa.



***Prodigal Summer*, Barbara Kingsolver**

Set in the Appalachian mountains, the author expertly weaves three stories of love and loss in a glorious celebration of nature. A wildlife biologist living alone, an urban entomologist turned farmer's widow, and a feuding pair of elderly neighbors all find themselves connecting to each other and to the natural world they inhabit in a fine ecological balance that must be revered.

Contains some mature content.



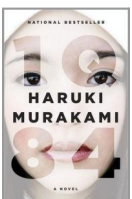
***A Separate Peace*, John Knowles**

1942, the last year at a New England boys' preparatory school for Gene Forrester, is overshadowed by the uneasiness of the war. This novel centers around a conflict of loyalties between Gene and his fearless friend, Phineas, that leads to tragedy.



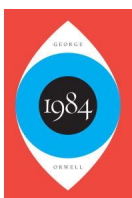
***The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison**

Eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove, an African-American girl in an America whose love for blonde, blue-eyed children can devastate all others, prays for her eyes to turn blue, so that she will be beautiful, people will notice her, and her world will be different. **Contains some mature content.**



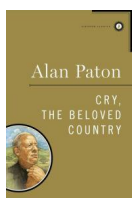
***1Q84*, Haruki Murakami**

An ode to George Orwell's *1984* told in alternating male and female voices relates the stories of Aomame, an assassin for a secret organization who discovers that she has been transported to an alternate reality, and Tengo, a mathematics lecturer and novice writer.



***1984*, George Orwell**

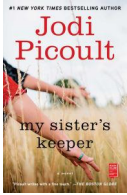
Written in 1948, this chilling and powerful prophecy portrays life in a haunting future time when a totalitarian government watches over all citizens and directs all activities. Defying a ban on individuality, Winston Smith dares to express his thoughts in a diary and pursues a relationship with Julia while “Big Brother” is watching.



***Cry, The Beloved Country*, Alan Paton**

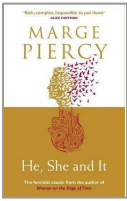
Recommended for students taking Global Perspectives

The deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. An accusation of murder and the racial plight of the country prevent justice from being done.



***My Sister's Keeper*, Jodi Picoult**

Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Anna begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body.



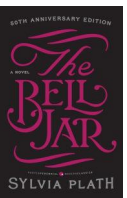
***He, She, and It*, Marge Piercy**

Enter the year 2059, when, after a nuclear holocaust and a great famine, strange and wonderful and terrifying technology alters the state of the Earth and of humanity. Shira Shipman, a woman caught in a deadly struggle for information, becomes involved with an illegal cyborg, an involvement that has links to a seventeenth-century Kabbalist who gives life to a golem.



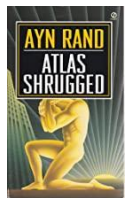
***Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, Robert Pirsig**

While cycling through the Western States, a disillusioned American questions the meaning of existence after confronting the ghost of his former, institutionalized self.



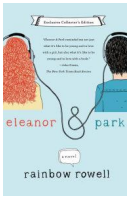
***The Bell Jar*, Sylvia Plath**

Spanning from the doctor's office to the asylum, this novel presents the American poet's semi-autobiographical account of Esther Greenwood, a talented writer who struggles for intimacy and meaning in her troubling artist life. **Contains some mature content.**



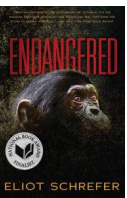
***Atlas Shrugged*, Ayn Rand**

Part mystery, part thriller, part philosophical inquiry, part volatile love affair, this is the astonishing story of a man who said he would stop the motor of the world—and did. Rand dramatizes the main tenets of Objectivism, her philosophy of rational selfishness. She explores the ramifications of her radical thinking in a world that penalizes human intelligence and integrity.



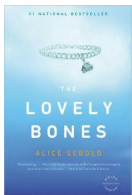
***Eleanor & Park*, Rainbow Rowell**

Eleanor and Park's worlds couldn't be more different. Park's family is idyllic: his Vietnam vet father and Korean immigrant mother are genuinely loving. Meanwhile, Eleanor and her younger siblings live in poverty under the constant threat of Richie, their abusive and controlling stepfather, while their mother inexplicably caters to his whims. Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.



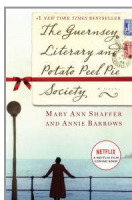
***Endangered*, Eliot Schrefer**

Sophie is not happy to be back in the Congo for the summer, but when she rescues an abused baby bonobo she becomes more involved in her mother's sanctuary—and when fighting breaks out and the sanctuary is attacked, it is up to Sophie to rescue the apes and somehow survive in the jungle.



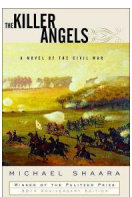
***The Lovely Bones*, Alice Sebold**

Looking on from the afterlife, 14-year-old Susie Salmon recounts her sexual assault and murder and watches her family as they cope with their grief and “the lovely bones” growing around her absence, waiting for her killer to be brought to some kind of justice. **Contains some mature content.**



***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, Mary Ann Shaffer**

In 1946, writer Juliet Ashton finds inspiration for her next book in her correspondence with a native of Guernsey, who tells her about the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a book club born as an alibi during German occupation.



***The Killer Angels*, Michael Shaara**

Recommended for students taking United States History

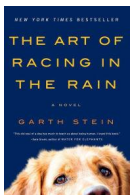
Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet tell the Southern view of the battle at Gettysburg while Colonel Joshua Chamberlain and General John Buford present the Northern view.



***The Jungle*, Upton Sinclair**

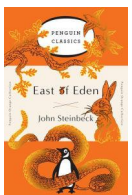
Recommended for students taking United States History

Jurgis Rudkus, a Lithuanian immigrant lured by appealing advertisements, comes to Chicago to make money in the stockyards, but the reality is different from what he expects.



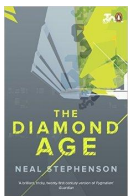
***The Art of Racing in the Rain*, Garth Stein**

Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television and by listening closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. On the night before his death, Enzo takes stock of his life, recalling all that he and his family have been through, hoping, in his next life, to return as a human.



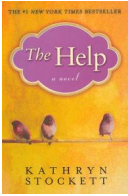
***East of Eden*, John Steinbeck**

This sprawling and often brutal novel, set in the rich farmlands of California's Salinas Valley, follows the intertwined destinies of two families—the Trasks and the Hamiltons—whose generations helplessly reenact the fall of Adam and Eve and the poisonous rivalry of Cain and Abel.



***The Diamond Age*, Neal Stephenson**

Set primarily in a far-future Shanghai in which molecular machines can create any desired object or structure, this novel follows a working-class girl named Nell as she stumbles upon a device that has the power to decode and reprogram her entire life.



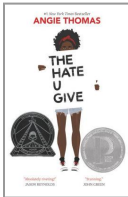
***The Help*, Kathryn Stockett**

Limited and persecuted by racial divides in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, three women, including an African- American maid Aibileen, her sassy and chronically unemployed friend Minny, and a recently graduated white woman Eugenia “Skeeter” Phelan, team up for a clandestine project—writing the story of domestic relationships from the help’s point of view.



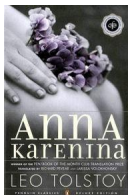
***The Goldfinch*, Donna Tartt**

A young boy in New York City, Theo Decker, miraculously survives an accident that takes the life of his mother. Alone and abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by a friend's family and struggles to make sense of his new life.



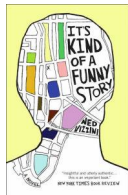
***The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas**

Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two very different worlds: one is her home in a poor black urban neighborhood; the other is her tony suburban prep school. After witnessing her friend's death at the hands of a police officer, Starr’s life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her into divulging what happened the night Kahlil died. If there is to be hope for change, Starr comes to realize, it must be through the exercise of her voice, even if it puts her and her family in harm’s way.



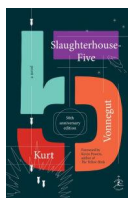
***Anna Karenina*, Leo Tolstoy**

The classic Russian novel in which a young woman is destroyed when she attempts to live outside the moral law of her society. This novel is a love affair set against the backdrop of Moscow and St. Petersburg high society in the latter half of the nineteenth century.



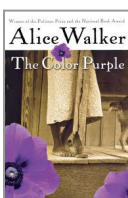
***It's Kind of a Funny Story*, Ned Vizzini**

A humorous account of a New York City teenager's battle with depression and his time spent in a psychiatric hospital. An almost unbelievable amount of self-realization, including his first two romantic encounters, occurs in the whirlwind five-day hospital stay.



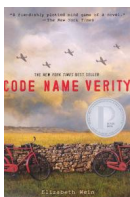
***Slaughterhouse Five*, Kurt Vonnegut**

A fourth-generation German-American living in easy circumstances on Cape Cod who, as an American infantry prisoner of war, witnessed the fire-bombing of Dresden, Germany, a long time ago, and survived to tell the tale and contemplate the human condition.



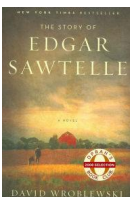
***The Color Purple*, Alice Walker**

Two African American sisters, one a missionary in Africa and the other a child-wife living in the South, support each other through their letters of correspondence, beginning in the 1920s.
Contains some mature content.



***Code Name Verity*, Elizabeth Wein**

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must do to survive while keeping secret all that she can.



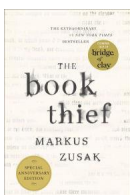
***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, David Wroblewski**

A tale reminiscent of *Hamlet* that also celebrates the alliance between humans and dogs follows speech-disabled Wisconsin youth Edgar, who bonds with three yearling canines and struggles to prove that his sinister uncle is responsible for his father's death.



***The Shack*, William Paul Young**

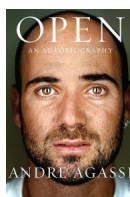
Four years after his daughter is abducted and evidence of her murder is found in an abandoned shack, Mackenzie Allen Philips returns to the shack in response to a note claiming to be from God, and has a life-changing experience.



***The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak**

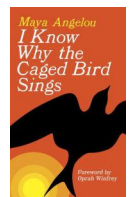
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death narrates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. More than the overt message about the power of words, it's Liesel's confrontation with horrifying cruelty and her discovery of kindness in unexpected places that tell the heartbreaking truth.

Nonfiction



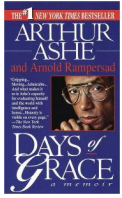
***Open*, Andre Agassi**

A candid memoir by the tennis champion covers his Grand Slam wins, establishment of a charitable foundation for underprivileged children, and marriage to Stefanie Graf.



***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou**

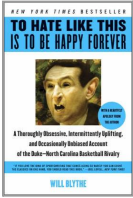
An exceptional autobiographical narrative which retrieves Angelou's first sixteen years from "the general darkness just beyond the great blinkers of childhood." The story of an incredible woman who has been a professional dancer, actress, poet, journalist, and television producer. **Contains some mature content.**



***Days of Grace*, Arthur Ashe**

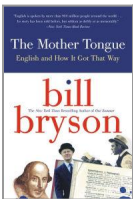
Recommended for students taking Global Perspectives

The late tennis champion and social activist tells his story from his career as a black tennis player to his battle against AIDS.



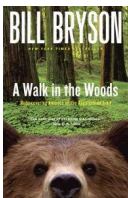
***To Hate Like This Is To Be Happy Forever*, Will Blythe**

The story of the rivalry between North Carolina's and Duke University's basketball teams discusses the long-term feud between the teams and their fans, citing a long history of race, family, loyalty, privilege, and Southern belief systems.



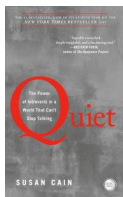
***The Mother Tongue : English and How It Got That Way*, Bill Bryson**

A history of the English language written for all to understand. Bryson begins with language's Neanderthal origins and goes on to describe the key people and events that have shaped English into its modern form and character.



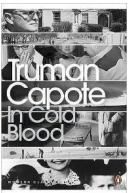
***A Walk in the Woods : Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*, Bill Bryson**

This bright and often sarcastic book traces the author's adventurous trek along the Appalachian Trail past its natural pleasures, human eccentrics, and offbeat comforts. Bryson introduces us to the history and ecology of the trail and to some of the other hardy (or just foolhardy) folks he meets along the way—and a couple of bears. Already a classic, *A Walk in the Woods* will make you long for the great outdoors.



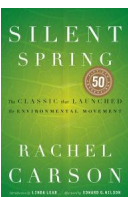
***Quiet : The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking*, Susan Cain**

Demonstrates how introverted people are misunderstood and undervalued in modern culture, charting the rise of extrovert ideology while sharing anecdotal examples of how to use introvert talents to adapt to various situations.



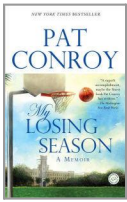
***In Cold Blood : A True Account of a Multiple Murder and its Consequences*, Truman Capote**

The masterful account of the senseless 1959 murders of four members of a farm family in Holcomb, Kansas, and the search for the killers, Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith.



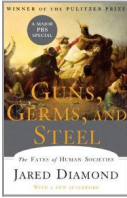
***Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson**

Discusses the reckless annihilation of fish and birds by the use of pesticides and warns of the possible genetic effects on humans.



***My Losing Season*, Pat Conroy**

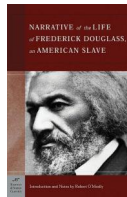
The author reflects on the place of sports in his life, describing his love of basketball, the role of the athlete for young men searching for their own identity, his education at the Citadel, and his journey to best-selling writer.



***Guns, Germs, and Steel : The Fates of Human Societies*, Jared Diamond**

Recommended for students taking Historical Perspectives

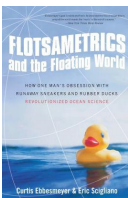
The author dismantles racially based theories of human history by revealing the environmental factors he feels are responsible for history's broadest patterns. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this book is a brilliant work answering the question of why the peoples of certain continents succeeded in invading other continents and conquering or displacing their peoples.



***Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, Frederick Douglass**

Recommended for students taking United States History

With moving, sobering, and inspirational words, this title presents a dramatic autobiography of the great nineteenth century black leader and abolitionist.

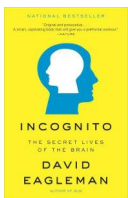


***Flotsametrics and the Floating World*, Curtis Ebbesmeyer & Eric Scigliano**

How one man's obsession with runaway sneakers & rubber ducks revolutionized ocean science

Recommended for students taking Physics

Pioneering oceanographer Curtis Ebbesmeyer unravels the mystery of marine currents, uncovers the astonishing story of flotsam, and changes the world's view of trash, the ocean, and our global environment by calling attention to the threats that global warming and disintegrating plastic waste pose to the seas—and to us.



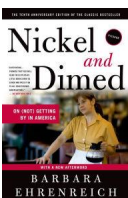
***Incognito : The Secret Lives of the Brain*, David Eagleman**

A leading neuroscientist reveals the functions of the unconscious regions of the brain, drawing on up-to-the-minute research to identify the significance of brain areas outside of our awareness and their roles in such areas as mate selection, the perception of beauty and the future of criminal law.



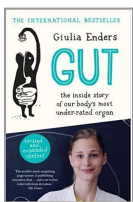
***The World is Blue : How Our Fate and the Ocean's Are One*, Sylvia A. Earle**

Traces the oceanic changes that have taken place in the last half-century and why they are posing a global catastrophe, in a cautionary photographic report that conveys the author's impassioned call for responsible and renewable strategies to safeguard the planet's natural systems.



***Nickel and dime: On (Not) Getting By in America*, Barbara Ehrenreich**

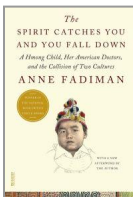
In an attempt to understand the lives of Americans earning near-minimum wages, the author hides her real identity and attempts to make a living on a salary of just over \$300 per week after taxes. Ehrenreich works as a waitress in Florida, a cleaning woman in Maine, and a sales clerk in Minnesota. Delivering a fast read that's both sobering and sassy, she gives readers pause about those caught in the economy's undertow, even in good times.



***Gut : the inside story of our body's most underrated organ*, Giulia Enders**

Recommended for Students taking AP Biology

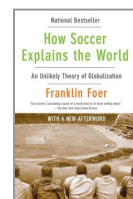
Almost as important to us as our brain or our heart, yet we know very little about how our gut works. Rather than the utilitarian and—let's be honest—somewhat embarrassing body part we imagine it to be, it is one of the most complex, important, and even miraculous parts of our anatomy. Scientists are only just discovering how much it has to offer; new research links gut bacteria to everything from obesity and allergies to Alzheimer's. *Gut* explains everything from the basics of nutrient absorption to the latest science connecting bowel bacteria with depression. An entertaining, informative health handbook.



***The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, Anne Fadiman**

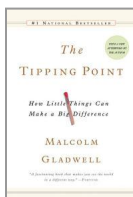
A Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures

Maps out the controversies raised by the collision between Western medicine and holistic healing traditions of Hmong immigrants. Unable to enter the Laotian forest to find herbs for Lia that will “fix her spirit,” her family becomes resigned to the Merced County emergency system, which has little understanding of Hmong animist traditions.



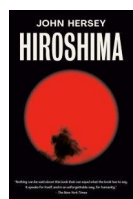
***How Soccer Explains the World : an Unlikely Theory of Globalization*, Franklin Foer**

Provides an analysis of the sport's reflection of history as well as its modern influence and identifies commonalities between tribalism and globalization, explaining how such factors as terrorism, poverty, racism, and religion contribute to how the game is played today.



***The Tipping Point : How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, Malcolm Gladwell**

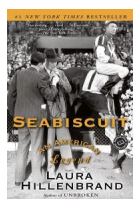
Explains why major changes in society often happen suddenly and unexpectedly. Also describes the personality types who are natural originators of new ideas and trends.



***Hiroshima*, John Hersey**

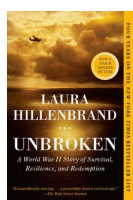
Recommended for students taking United States History

The classic tale of the day the first atom bomb was dropped offers a haunting evocation of the memories of survivors and an appeal to the conscience of humanity.



***Seabiscuit : an American legend*, Laura Hillenbrand**

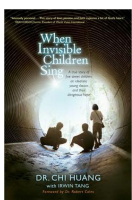
To look at Seabiscuit one would never know that he had the potential to become the most popular racehorse of the 20th century. But, thanks to the efforts of his owner, his dedicated trainer, and his jockeys, Seabiscuit made racing history despite his stunted legs and knobby knees.



***Unbroken : a World War II story of survival, resilience, and redemption*, Laura Hillenbrand**

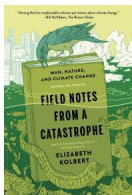
Recommended for students taking United States History

Relates the story of a U.S. airman who survived when his bomber crashed into the sea during World War II, spent forty-seven days adrift in the ocean before being rescued by the Japanese Navy, and was held as a prisoner until the end of the war.



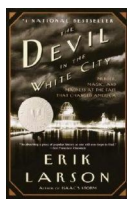
***When Invisible Children Sing*, Chi-Cheng Huang**

Huang, the founder of the Bolivian Street Children Project and physician at Boston Medical Center, spends a year in Bolivia caring for homeless children in an orphanage and for the children on the streets of La Paz. The author tells the street children's stories, demonstrating the humanity of those who are usually invisible. Always honest about his own anger, frustration, confusion and even his doubts about God at times, Huang inspires readers to reach out, even to just one child, and make a difference in a life.



***Field Notes from a Catastrophe : Man, Nature, and Climate Change*, Elizabeth Kolbert**

A *New Yorker* writer tackles the controversial subject of global warming. The author travels to the Arctic, interviews researchers and environmentalists, draws frightening parallels to lost ancient civilizations, and presents the personal tales of those who are being affected most—the people who make their homes near the poles and are watching their worlds disappear.

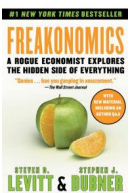


***Devil in the White City*, Erik Larson**

Murder, magic, and madness at the fair that changed America

Recommended for students taking United States History

An account of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 relates the stories of two men who shaped the history of the event: architect Daniel H. Burnham, who coordinated its construction, and serial killer Herman Mudgett. **Contains some mature and disturbing content.**

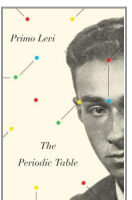


***Freakonomics*, Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner**

A rogue economist explores the hidden side of everything

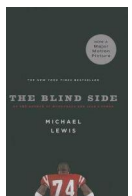
Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool? What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? This book shows that economics is, at root, the study of incentives—how people get what they want, or need, especially when other people want or need the same thing.

Freakonomics establishes this unconventional premise: If morality represents how we would like the world to work, then economics represents how it actually does work.



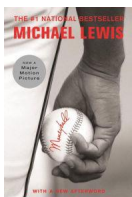
***The Periodic Table*, Primo Levi**

The Periodic Table is largely a memoir of the years before and after Primo Levi's transportation from his native Italy to Auschwitz as an anti-fascist partisan and a Jew. It recounts, in clear, precise, unflinching beautiful prose, the story of the Piedmontese Jewish community from which Levi came, of his years as a student and young chemist at the inception of the Second World War, and of his investigations into the nature of the material world.



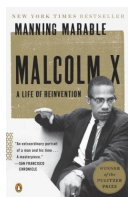
***The Blind Side : Evolution of a Game*, Michael Lewis**

This book follows one young man, Michael Oher, from his impoverished childhood with a crack-addicted mother, through his discovery of the sport of football, to his rise to become one of the most successful, highly-paid players in the NFL.



***Moneyball : The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*, Michael Lewis**

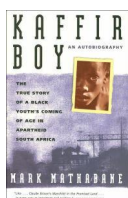
This novel explains how Billy Beene, the general manager of the Oakland Athletics, is leading a revolution. Using a new kind of thinking, little-known numbers and statistics rather than biggest talents getting the biggest salaries, Beene builds a successful and winning baseball team without spending enormous sums of money.



Malcolm X : A Life of Reinvention, Manning Marable

Recommended for students taking United States History

An authoritative biography of Malcolm X draws on new research to trace his life from his troubled youth through his involvement in the Nation of Islam, his activism in the world of Black Nationalism, and his assassination.

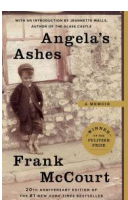


Kaffir Boy, Mark Mathabane

The true story of a Black youth's coming of age in Apartheid South Africa

Recommended for students taking Global Perspectives

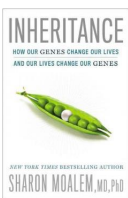
A black writer describes his childhood in South Africa under apartheid and recounts how Arthur Ashe and Stan Smith helped him leave for America on a tennis scholarship. **Contains some mature content.**



Angela's Ashes, Frank McCourt

Recommended for students taking United States or European History

The author recounts his childhood in Depression-era Brooklyn as the child of Irish immigrants who decide to return to worse poverty in Ireland when his infant sister dies.

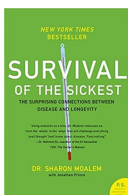


Inheritance, Sharon Moalem

How our genes change our lives, and our lives change our genes

Recommended for students taking AP Biology

An award-winning scientist, physician, and *New York Times* best-selling author explains new concepts in human genetics and health that indicate that the fundamental nature of the human genome is much more fluid and flexible than originally thought.

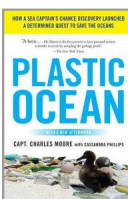


Survival of the Sickest, Sharon Moalem

The surprising connections between disease and longevity

Recommended for students taking AP Biology

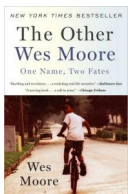
Invites readers to change their perceptions about illness in order to understand disease as an essential component of the evolutionary process, citing the role of such malaises as diabetes, STDs, and the Avian Bird Flu in protecting the survival of the human race.



Plastic Ocean, Charles Moore

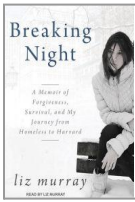
How a sea captain's chance discovery launched a determined quest to save the oceans

Documents the author's 1997 short-cut voyage through the seldom-traversed North Pacific Subtropical Gyre, where he discovered the planet's largest garbage dump and resolved to raise awareness about the toxic impact of plastic waste in the world's oceans.



The Other Wes Moore : The Story of One Name and Two Fates, Wes Moore

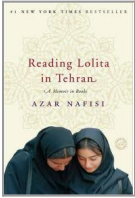
Traces the parallel lives of two youths with the same name in the same community, describing how the author grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar and promising business leader while his counterpart suffered a life of violence and imprisonment.



Breaking Night, Liz Murray

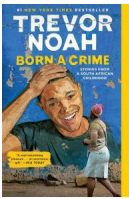
A memoir of forgiveness, survival, and my journey from homeless to Harvard

Liz Murray offers the account of her journey from a fifteen-year-old girl living on the streets and eating garbage with drug-addicted parents, overcoming serious obstacles, to being accepted into Harvard University.



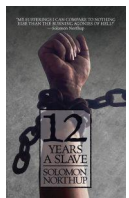
Reading Lolita in Tehran : A Memoir in Books, Azar Nafisi

The author describes growing up in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the group of young women who came together at her home in secret every Thursday to read and discuss great books of Western literature.



Born a Crime : Stories from a South African Childhood, Trevor Noah

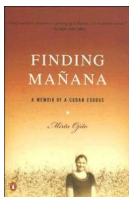
In this witty and revealing autobiography, the host of The Daily Show with Trevor Noah traces his wild coming of age during the twilight of Apartheid in South Africa and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed, offering insight into the farcical aspects of the political and social systems of today's world.



Twelve Years a Slave, Solomon Northup

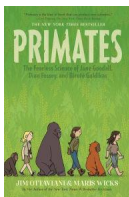
Recommended for students taking United States History

A harrowing memoir about one of the darkest periods in American history. Born a free man in New York, Solomon Northup was abducted in Washington, D.C., in 1841 and spent the next twelve years of his life in captivity as a slave on a Louisiana cotton plantation. **Contains some mature content.**



Finding Mañana : A Memoir of a Cuban Exodus, Mirta Ojito

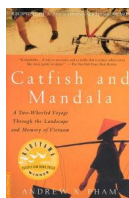
A vibrant, moving memoir of one family's life in Cuba and their wrenching departure. Mirta Ojito was born in Havana and raised there until the unprecedented events of the Mariel boatlift brought her to Miami, one teenager among more than a hundred thousand fellow refugees. Now a reporter for *The New York Times*, Ojito goes back to reckon with her past and to find the people who set this exodus in motion and brought her to her new home.



Primates, Jim Ottaviani & Maris Wicks

The fearless science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birute Galdikas

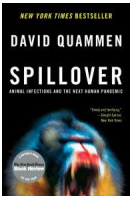
Introduces the lives and work of three eminent primatologists, shares insights into their education under mentor Louis Leakey, while exploring their pivotal contributions to twentieth-century natural science.



Catfish and Mandala, Andrew X. Pham

A two-wheeled voyage through the landscape and memory of Vietnam

A Vietnamese American returns to the land of his birth in a memoir of the consequences of war and the divide that still separates Asian Americans from the dominant culture.

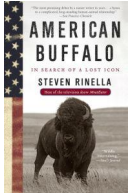


***Spillover : Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic*, David Quammen**

Recommended as a very timely introduction to epidemics similar to COVID-19

The next human disease cataclysm, perhaps on the scale of AIDS or the 1918 influenza, is likely to be caused by a new virus coming to humans from wildlife. Experts call such an event “spillover.”

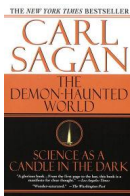
The author has tracked this subject from Central Africa, Bangladesh, and southern China to the laboratories where researchers study lethal viruses. He illuminates the dynamics of Ebola, SARS, bird flu, Lyme disease, and other emerging threats and tells the story of AIDS and its origins as it has never before been told. *Spillover* reads like a mystery, full of mayhem, clues, and questions.



***American Buffalo : In Search of a Lost Icon*, Steven Rinella**

Recommended for students taking United States History

A correspondent for Outside magazine details his participation in a hunt for American bison in the Alaskan wilderness while reflecting on the history of the buffalo and the future of an animal that has haunted the American imagination.



***The Demon-Haunted World : science as a candle in the dark*, Carl Sagan**

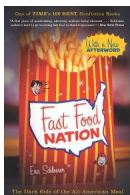
Revealing the dangers associated with widespread scientific ignorance, a cautionary study explains how scientific thought has served to overcome prejudice and hysteria while debunking the myth that science destroys spirituality.



***The Power of Half*, Kevin and Hannah Salwen**

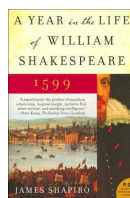
One family's decision to stop taking and start giving back

Shares the inspirational story of how the author's family, witnessing the disparity between a homeless man and the owner of a luxury car, sold their Atlanta mansion and eventually moved across the world in order to dedicate their lives to charity and helping others.



***Fast Food Nation : the dark side of the All-American meal*, Eric Schlosser**

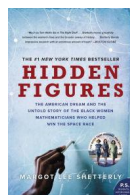
A journalist explores the homogenization of American culture and the impact of the fast food industry on modern-day health, economy, politics, popular culture, entertainment, and food production.



***A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare : 1599*, James Shapiro**

Recommended for students taking European History or Historical Perspectives

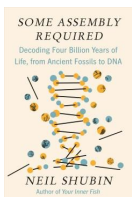
An intimate history of Shakespeare, following him through a single year—1599—that changed not only his fortunes but the course of literature. Shapiro illuminates both Shakespeare's staggering achievements and significant events that Elizabethans experienced in the course of history.



***Hidden Figures*, Margot Lee Shetterly**

The American dream and the untold story of the Black women mathematicians who helped win the space race

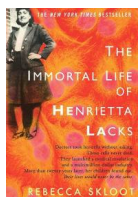
An account of the previously unheralded but pivotal contributions of NASA's African-American women mathematicians to America's space program describes how they were segregated from their white counterparts by Jim Crow laws in spite of their groundbreaking successes.



***Some Assembly Required*, Neil Shubin**

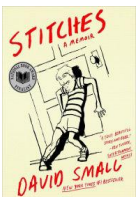
Decoding four billion years of life, from ancient fossils to DNA

A lively and accessible account of the great transformations in the history of life, that enable us to further understand whether our presence on this planet is an accident or inevitable.



***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Rebecca Skloot**

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The story of the Lacks family is inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of.



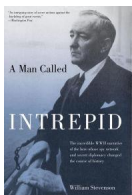
***Stitches : A Memoir*, David Small**

The author recounts in graphic novel format his troubled childhood with a radiologist father who subjected him to repeated x-rays and a withholding and tormented mother, an environment he fled at the age of sixteen in the hopes of becoming an artist.



***Maus* (series), Art Spiegelman**

Told with chilling realism in graphic novel format, this is more than a tale of surviving the Holocaust. Spiegelman relates the effect of those events on the survivors' later years and upon the lives of the following generation. It relates events which young adults, as the future architects of society, must confront.



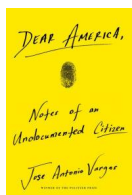
***A Man Called Intrepid : The Secret War*, William Stevenson**

Offers an account of the intelligence activities of William Stephenson, code name Intrepid, and of the world's first integrated intelligence network, established in 1940 by Stephenson under the joint aegis of Churchill and Roosevelt.



***Cuba : What Everyone Needs to Know*, third edition, Julia E. Sweig**

An expansive and authoritative look at Cuba's history since the Spanish American War before shifting to recent times. Focusing equally on Cuba's role in world affairs and its own social and political transformations, the author divides the book chronologically into the pre-Fidel era, the period between the 1959 revolution and the fall of the Soviet Union, the post-Cold War era, and—finally—the post-Fidel era. The best compact reference on Cuba's internal politics, its often fraught relationship with the United States, and its shifting relationship with the global community.



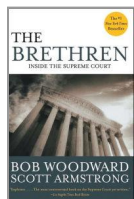
***Dear America : notes of an undocumented citizen*, Jose Antonio Vargas**

The journalist and immigration-rights activist presents a memoir relating how he was sent from the Philippines to the U.S. as a child, his discovery of his undocumented status as a teenager, and his decision to reveal his immigration status publicly in 2011.



***The Right Stuff*, Tom Wolfe**

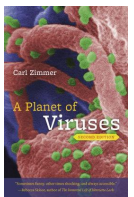
The moments of grandeur and weakness, the aspirations, and the problems of America's astronauts are revealed in an exploration of the dimensions of their inner lives in space, on the moon, and on the earth.



***The Brethren : Inside the Supreme Court*, Bob Woodward and Scott Armstrong**

Recommended for students taking United States History or Government and Economics

Offers an unprecedented view of the chief and associate justices of the Burger Supreme Court, illuminating the maneuvering, arguing, politicking, and compromising that underlie the making of decisions that affect every major area of American life.



***A Planet of Viruses*, second edition, Carl Zimmer**

Recommended for students taking AP Biology

Explores the hidden world of viruses, explaining how they profoundly affect human lives and updates current virus-related issues, including the frenetic evolution of the HIV virus, which could pose greater dangers in the future. The updated second edition includes stories of new outbreaks, such as Ebola, MERS, and chikungunya virus; new scientific discoveries, such as a hundred-million-year-old virus that infected the common ancestor of armadillos, elephants, and humans; and new findings that show why climate change may lead to even deadlier outbreaks. Thoroughly readable, and as reassuring as it is frightening.

Noteworthy Authors

Want to read more great books during your summer break? You can use the following list of authors—whose valuable writing frequently appears on AP Language and Literature exams—as a helpful guide.

Chinua Achebe
Sherman Alexie
Isabel Allende
Rudolfo Anaya
Margaret Atwood
Jane Austen
James Baldwin
Saul Bellow
Charlotte Bronte
Emily Bronte
Raymond Carver
Willa Cather
John Cheever
Kate Chopin
Sandra Cisneros
Ta-Nehisi Coates
Joseph Conrad
Edwidge Danticat
Daniel Defoe
Anita Desai
Charles Dickens
Fyodor Dostoevsky

George Eliot
Ralph Ellison
Louise Erdrich
William Faulkner
Henry Fielding
F. Scott Fitzgerald
Zora Neale Hurston
Kazuo Ishiguro
Henry James
Ha Jin
Edward P. Jones
James Joyce
Ibham X. Kendi
Maxine Hong Kingston
Joy Kogawa
Jhumpa Lahiri
Margaret Laurence
D.H. Lawrence
Chang-rae Lee
Bernard Malamud
Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Cormac McCarthy

Ian McEwan
Herman Melville
Toni Morrison
Bharati Mukherjee
Vladimir Nabokov
Flannery O'Connor
Orhan Pamuk
Katherine Anne Porter
Marilynne Robinson
Jonathan Swift
Mark Twain
John Updike
Alice Walker
Evelyn Waugh
Eudora Welty
Edith Wharton
John Edgar Wideman
Virginia Woolf
Richard Wright