

## Summer Reading 2022

Students are encouraged to participate in summer reading prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year. Selected titles are below. Students who participate are asked to redesign the cover of the chosen book based on their interpretation of the work. The redesigned cover will have to include the following components:

- Title
- Author
- Visual representation of a theme within the book
- Meaningful quote that reflects an important aspect of the book. Students should be able to explain why the quote was chosen during our **RHS Library Takeover** in September.
- Students will use Canva to complete their projects. Completed covers should be emailed to [jkemp@rocklandschools.org](mailto:jkemp@rocklandschools.org) by September 9th. The library takeover will occur Friday, September 23rd.

All students who complete the summer reading assignment are invited to participate in the Library Takeover! Students will be called down in September during G block to participate in a book chat and see their redesigned covers on display. Participants are encouraged to invite staff members to attend.

### Titles

- *Einstein's Dreams* by Alan Lightman
- *Storm in a Teacup: The Physics of Everyday Life* by Helen Czerski
- *The Many Worlds of Albie Bright* by Christopher Edge
- *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys
- *The Happiest Man on Earth* by Eddie Jaku
- *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project* by Jack Mayer
- *How to Stop Time* by Matt Haig
- *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray
- *The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* by Ben Philippe
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Haddon
- *The Grapes of Math: How Life Reflects Numbers and Numbers Reflect Life* by Alex Bellos
- *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa

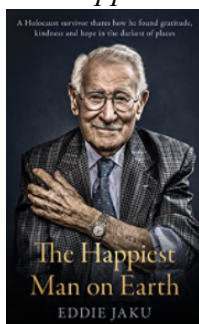
## Book Summaries

Title	Summary
<p><i>Einstein's Dreams</i> by Alan Lightman</p> 	<p>A modern classic, <i>Einstein's Dreams</i> is a fictional collage of stories dreamed by Albert Einstein in 1905, when he worked in a patent office in Switzerland. As the defiant but sensitive young genius is creating his theory of relativity, a new conception of time, he imagines many possible worlds. In one, time is circular, so that people are fated to repeat triumphs and failures over and over. In another, there is a place where time stands still, visited by lovers and parents clinging to their children. In another, time is a nightingale, sometimes trapped by a bell jar.</p>
<p><i>Storm in a Teacup: The Physics of Everyday Life</i> by Helen Czerski</p> 	<p><i>Storm in a Teacup</i> is Helen Czerski's lively, entertaining, and informed introduction to the world of physics. Czerski provides the tools to alter the way we see everything around us by linking ordinary objects and occurrences, like popcorn popping, coffee stains, and fridge magnets, to big ideas like climate change, the energy crisis, or innovative medical testing.</p>
<p><i>The Many Worlds of Albie Bright</i> by Christopher Edge</p> 	<p>When Albie's mum dies, it's natural he should wonder where she's gone. His parents are both scientists and they usually have all the answers. Dad mutters something about Albie's mum being alive and with them in a parallel universe. So Albie finds a box, his mum's computer and a rotting banana, and sends himself through time and space to find her.</p>
<p><i>I Must Betray You</i> by Ruta Sepetys</p>	<p><b>Romania, 1989.</b> Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force.</p> <p>Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices:</p>



betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe.

*The Happiest Man on Earth* by Eddie Jaku

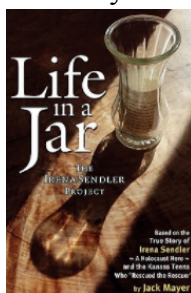


Eddie Jaku always considered himself a German first, a Jew second. He was proud of his country. But all of that changed in November 1938, when he was beaten, arrested and taken to a concentration camp.

Over the next seven years, Eddie faced unimaginable horrors every day, first in Buchenwald, then in Auschwitz, then on a Nazi death march. He lost family, friends, his country.

Because he survived, Eddie made the vow to smile every day. He pays tribute to those who were lost by telling his story, sharing his wisdom and living his best possible life. He now believes he is the 'happiest man on earth'.

*Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project* by Jack Mayer



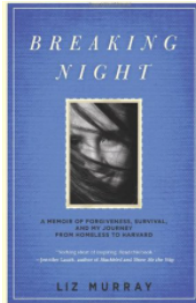
During World War II, Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker, organized a rescue network of fellow social workers to save 2,500 Jewish children from certain death in the Warsaw ghetto. Incredibly, after the war her heroism, like that of many others, was suppressed by communist Poland and remained virtually unknown for 60 years. Unknown, that is, until three high school girls from an economically depressed, rural school district in southeast Kansas stumbled upon a tantalizing reference to Sendler's rescues, which they fashioned into a history project, a play they called Life in a Jar.

*How to Stop Time* by Matt Haig



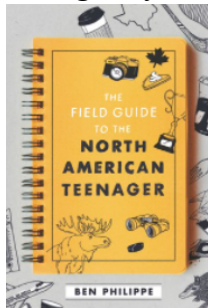
Tom Hazard has just moved back to London, his old home, to settle down and become a high school history teacher. And on his first day at school, he meets a captivating French teacher at his school who seems fascinated by him. But Tom has a dangerous secret. He may look like an ordinary 41-year-old, but owing to a rare condition, he's been alive for centuries.

*Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray



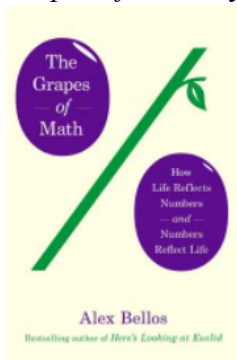
In the vein of *The Glass Castle*, *Breaking Night* is the stunning memoir of a young woman who at age fifteen was living on the streets, and who eventually made it into Harvard.

*The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* by Ben Philippe



Norris Kaplan is clever, cynical, and quite possibly too smart for his own good. A black French Canadian, he knows from watching American sitcoms that those three things don't bode well when you are moving to Austin, Texas. Plunked into a new high school and sweating a ridiculous amount from the oppressive Texas heat, Norris finds himself cataloging everyone he meets: the Cheerleaders, the Jocks, the Loners, and even the Manic Pixie Dream Girl. Making a ton of friends has never been a priority for him, and this way he can at least amuse himself until it's time to go back to Canada, where he belongs.

*Grapes of Math* by Alex Bellos



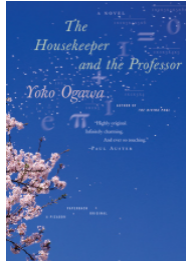
From triangles, rotations and power laws, to cones, curves and the dreaded calculus, Alex takes you on a journey of mathematical discovery with his signature wit and limitless enthusiasm. He sifts through over 30,000 survey submissions to uncover the world's favorite number, and meets a mathematician who looks for universes in his garage. He attends the World Mathematical Congress in India, and visits the engineer who designed the first roller-coaster loop.

Get hooked on math as Alex delves deep into humankind's turbulent relationship with numbers, and reveals how they have shaped the world we live in.

*The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa

He is a brilliant math Professor with a peculiar problem--ever since a traumatic head injury, he has lived with only eighty minutes of short-term memory.

She is an astute young Housekeeper, with a

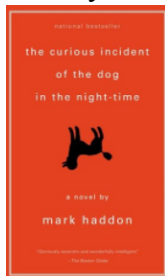


ten-year-old son, who is hired to care for him.

And every morning, as the Professor and the Housekeeper are introduced to each other anew, a strange and beautiful relationship blossoms between them. Though he cannot hold memories for long (his brain is like a tape that begins to erase itself every eighty minutes), the Professor's mind is still alive with elegant equations from the past. And the numbers, in all of their articulate order, reveal a sheltering and poetic world to both the Housekeeper and her young son. The Professor is capable of discovering connections between the simplest of quantities--like the Housekeeper's shoe size--and the universe at large, drawing their lives ever closer and more profoundly together, even as his memory slips away.

The Housekeeper and the Professor is an enchanting story about what it means to live in the present, and about the curious equations that can create a family.

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon



Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.

This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

(Summaries courtesy of Goodreads)