



Summer 2020 Reading Choices

Listed below are the books being offered for summer reading this year. Please review the books and choose one book to read over the summer. A Sign-Up Genius will be sent to you on Monday, June 1, at 12 noon to sign up for your book choice.

Book Name and Author: Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep by Philip K. Dick **GRADE 9 ONLY**

Moderator: Ms. Saman Abbas

Summary: By 2021, the World War has killed millions, driving entire species into extinction and sending mankind off-planet. Those who remain covet any living creature, and for people who can't afford one, companies built incredibly realistic, simulacra: horses, birds, cats, and sheep. They've even built humans. Immigrant to Mars receive androids so sophisticated they are indistinguishable from true men or women. Fearful of the havoc these artificial humans can wreak, the government bans them from Earth. Driven into hiding, unauthorized androids live among human beings, undetected. Rick Deckard, an officially sanctioned bounty hunter, is commissioned to find rogue androids and "retire" them. But when cornered, androids fight back-with lethal force.

Book Name and Author: Confidential Communication by J. Reardon **GRADES 10 AND 11 ONLY**

Moderator: Ms. Lisa Cenca

Summary: Rebecca Lawson, a young general-practice attorney in Vermont, expected to expand her practice when she was hired by Allan Richards to investigate a suspicious employee. Instead, she finds herself amidst national and international conspiracies, manipulations, and murder. With the help of an old colleague, Joshua Tameron, she learns that the financial security and innocent citizens of the United States are in imminent danger, and it is up to them to expose the truth. Confidential Communications is a legal thriller that takes the reader on a ride and evaluates the vulnerability of us all while witnessing the downfall of greed.

Book Name and Author: **The Hot Hand by Ben Cohen**

Moderator: **Mr. Felim Clancy**

Summary: What phenomenon links Steph Curry with Shakespeare? Both experienced productivity “streaks” where, for a short period of time, everything they touched turned to metaphorical gold. For decades, statisticians, social scientists, psychologists, and economists (among them Nobel Prize winners) have spent massive amounts of precious time thinking about whether streaks actually exist. After all, a substantial number of decisions that we make in our everyday lives are quietly rooted in this one question: If something happened before, will it happen again? Is there such a thing as being in the zone? Can someone have a “hot hand”? Or is it simply a case of seeing patterns in randomness? Or, if streaks are possible, where can they be found?

Book Name and Author: **The Distance Between Us: A Memoir by Reyna Grande**

Moderator: **Ms. Lauren Dupont**

Summary: Reyna Grande chronicles her life as an undocumented immigrant in the United States. After leaving Mexico, Grande’s idealizations of American life are confronted with reality. She overcomes abandonment, poverty and neglect through the solace of writing.

Book Name and Author: **Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Ayana** **GRADE 11 ONLY**

Moderator: **Mr. Timothy Endicott**

Summary: This book is set in rural New Mexico in the 1940s. The novel tells the story of a boy who learns to navigate the changing American landscape during World War II with the help of a *curandera* (spiritual healer) priests, cowboys, and soldiers. Anaya’s use of Spanish, mystical depiction of the New Mexican landscape, use of cultural motifs such as La Llorona, and recounting of *curandera* folkways such as the gathering of medicinal herbs, gives readers a sense of the influence of indigenous cultural ways that are both authentic and distinct from the mainstream.

Book Name and Author: **Life in Motion by Misty Copeland**

Moderator: **Ms. Stacie Ferreira**

Summary: Determination meets dance in this memoir by the history-making ballerina. In this instant New York Times bestseller, Misty Copeland makes history, telling the story of her journey to become the first African-American principal ballerina at the prestigious American Ballet Theatre. But when she first placed her hands on the barre at an after-school community center, no one expected the undersized, underprivileged, and anxious thirteen-year-old to become one of America's most groundbreaking dancers. A true prodigy, she was attempting in months roles that take most dancers years to master. But when Misty became caught between the control and comfort she found in the world of ballet and the harsh realities of her own life, she had to choose to embrace both her identity and her dreams, and find the courage to be one of a kind.

Book Name and Author: **The 5 People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom**

Moderator: **Ms. Deirdre Foley**

Summary: This novel follows the life and death of Eddie who is killed and sent to heaven, where he encounters five people who had a significant impact upon him while he was alive.

Book Name and Author: **Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie**

Moderator: **Ms. Pauline Giannantonio**

Summary: The elegant train of the 1930s, the Orient Express, is stopped by heavy snowfall. A murder is discovered, and Poirot's trip home to London from the Middle East is interrupted to solve the murder.

Book Name and Author: **Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate**

Moderator: **Ms. Sarah Hamilton**

Summary: **Before We Were Yours** is based upon the Georgia Tann scandal. It tells the heartbreaking story of the twelve year old Rill Foss and her efforts to protect her siblings after they are taken from their family's shanty boat on the Mississippi after their mother is rushed to the hospital as the birth of her twins goes terribly wrong. The story of the Foss children is intertwined with the story of Avery Stafford, the privileged daughter of a US Senator, whose chance meeting with an elderly woman in a nursing home propels her to discover secrets from her family's past.

Book Name and Author: **The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway**

Moderator: **Ms. Joy Leone**

Summary: The Old Man is struck down by forces bigger than a single man can combat, but he leaves behind him a code of honor and virtue which brings a beauty and nobility to his loss. This is a classic book that shows the parallels of Christ and sets a great example of courage for others to follow.

Book Name and Author: **Educated by Tara Westover**

Moderator: **Ms. Jeanne Lynch-Galvin**

Summary: Westover's extraordinary memoir is an act of courage and self-invention. The youngest of seven children, she grew up in Idaho, in a survivalist family who lived so far off the grid that she lacked even a birth certificate and did not attend school until she went to college. Getting in wasn't obvious: At home, reading meant studying the Bible and the Book of Mormon, and much of her childhood was spent helping her mother, an unlicensed midwife, and her father, a paranoid man who maintained a scrap-metal junkyard. In recounting her upbringing and her triumph over it – she would earn a Ph.D. in history at Cambridge. Westover took great risks and alienated family members. The reward is a book that testifies to an irrepressible thirst to learn.

Book Name and Author: **The Return of a Soldier by Rebecca West**

Moderator: **Mr. Michael McCarthy**

Summary: At first glance, one would assume that the major theme of the novel is the trauma caused by modern war and its impact on those who fight in it. However, this novel also focuses on themes of marriage, feminism, love and friendship. The novel uses the backdrop of WWI to expose the flaws in contemporary society and its impact on men and women alike, the sense of manliness and duty forced on young men and the expectation of stability and femininity for young women. The plot of the story focuses on the family of a returning British soldier from the Western Front, whose experience under fire left him with shell shock and severe memory loss, to the point where he cannot recognize his own wife, and has in his mind, reverted to his teenage years. The novel focuses on the female family members and friends attempts to bring him back.

Book Name and Author: **Tatoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion**
by Gregory Boyle

Moderator: Ms. Mea Mustone

Summary: **Tatoos on the Heart**, written by Father Gregory Boyle, are sparkling parables about kinship and the sacredness of life drawn from his twenty years working with gangs in LA. Gorgeous and uplifting, **Tatoos on the Heart** amply demonstrates the impact unconditional love can have on your life.

Book Name and Author: **Fast Girls** by Elise Hooper

Moderator: Ms. Jacqueline Rapp

Summary: Acclaimed author Elise Hooper explores the gripping, real life history of female athletes, members of the first integrated women's Olympic team, and their journeys to the 1936 summer games in Berlin, Nazi Germany.

Book Name and Author: **The Screwtape Letters** by C.S. Lewis

GRADE 11 ONLY

Moderator: Ms. Roxana Ruiz

Summary: In **The Screwtape Letters**, Lewis imagines a series of lessons in the importance of taking a deliberate role in Christian faith by portraying a typical human life, with all its temptations and failings, seen from devils' viewpoints. Screwtape holds an administrative post in the bureaucracy ("Lowerarchy") of Hell, and acts as a mentor to his nephew Wormwood, an inexperienced (and incompetent) tempter. In the 31 letters which constitute the book, Screwtape gives Wormwood detailed advice on various methods of undermining God's words and of promoting abandonment of God in "the Patient", interspersed with observations on human nature and on the Bible. In Screwtape's advice, selfish gain and power are seen as the only good, and neither demon can comprehend God's love for man or acknowledge human virtue.

Book Name and Author: **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian** by Sherman Alexie

Moderator: Ms. Lauren Smith

Summary: Best selling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the reservation to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, the book is based on the author's own experiences. The stories are coupled with poignant drawings that reflect the character's art, as well as

chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.

Book Name and Author: **Just Mercy (Young Adults Adaptation): A True Story of the Fight for Justice** by Bryan Stevenson

Moderator: Mr. Gregory Tubman

Summary: Adapted from the original #1 bestseller, which the New York Times calls “as compelling as **To Kill a Mockingbird**, and in some ways more so”-acclaimed lawyer and social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson offers a glimpse into the lives of the wrongfully imprisoned and his efforts to fight for their freedom. Stevenson’s story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society-the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization. Through this adaptation, young people of today will find themselves called to action and compassion in the pursuit of justice.

Book Name and Author: **An Absolutely Remarkable Thing** by Hank Green

Moderator: To Be Determined

Summary: “The Carls just appeared. Coming home from work at three a.m., twenty-three-year-old April May stumbles across a giant sculpture. Delighted by its appearance and craftsmanship-like a ten-foot-tall Transformer wearing a suit of samurai armor-April and her friend Andy make a video with it, which Andy uploads to YouTube. The next day April wakes up to a viral video and a new life. News quickly spreads that there are Carls in dozens of cities around the world-everywhere from Beijing to Buenos Aires-and April, as their first documentarian, finds herself at the center of an intense international media spotlight. Now April has to deal with the pressure on her relationships, her identity, and her safety that this new position brings, all while being on the front lines of the quest to find out not just what the Carls are, but what they want from us.”

Book Name and Author: **I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter** by Erika L. Sánchez

Moderator: To Be Determined

Summary: After the tragic death of her sister, Julia attempts to keep her family together and live up to her sister’s memory. Follow along as she struggles to find herself and cope with the pressures and stereotypes of growing up in a Mexican-American household.

Book Name and Author: **A Mango-Shaped Space** by Wendy Mass

Moderator: To Be Determined

Summary: Mia Winchell appears to be a typical kid, but she’s keeping a big secret-sounds, numbers, and words have color for her. No one knows, and Mia wants to keep it that way. But when trouble at school finally forces Mia to reveal her secret, she must learn to accept herself and embrace her ability, called synesthesia, a mingling of the senses.