Where will books take you this summer?
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Reading at Kent Denver</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Reading Program Statement</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth Grade Reading Choices</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh Grade Reading Choices</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth Grade Reading Choices</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Recommendations</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Reader’s Bill of Rights</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summer Reading at Kent Denver School

“It is what you read when you don’t have to that determines what you will be when you can’t help it.” Oscar Wilde

School-Wide Approach

During the school year, students and adults report that they are so busy with school and work that they have very little time to read for pleasure. Sure, students read, but often only what they are assigned, what has been chosen for them. An assigned reading system inadvertently implies that students should only read when it is required. In various discussions the Kent Denver faculty has confirmed—virtually in one voice—that summer should be a time for all of us to recharge without the pressures of homework and school, and to rediscover reading for pleasure. Choice of texts forms the foundation of the summer shift away from “what do I have to read?” to “what do I want to read?” The research on the efficacy of summer reading overwhelmingly supports that students get more from summer reading when they choose their own texts. Choice allows students to pick books at reading levels appropriate to their own levels and to choose topics and genres about which they truly care. The summer reading program at Kent Denver, in varying degrees from Middle School to Upper School, embraces this fundamental idea of discovering the joy of reading through choice.

The summer reading program also embraces our core values. The obvious core value is that of personal growth. With each book read, our lives are enriched, and if the book so moves us, we live in the company of those characters. But there is also the acknowledgement that we are our own community of readers who enjoy sharing our ideas and interests with each other. Reading as a community makes us all better as individuals.

This booklet is a wonderful compilation of recommendations from Kent Denver students, faculty and staff. We invite all members of our community to read for pleasure this summer, and we hope that these reviews will assist you as you select your readings.

Thank you students, faculty and staff who took time to submit recommendations—this publication would not be possible without your contributions.

Have a wonderful summer filled with great reads, hammocks and warm breezes.

Neil Batt, English Faculty
The Middle School Program:  
*Community Books and Individual Choices*

The summer reading program in the Middle School balances choice with a desire to give students at each grade level a common reading experience with which to begin the year. *For each grade level—sixth through eighth—a student will read three books: one common book, one book selected from a list of titles provided by the faculty and one book entirely of the student’s choice.* The experience of the common text helps build a community through grade-level-wide discussions of themes the common text raises. The other two texts give students the experience of choosing and finding for themselves something that they enjoy.

Students should expect to talk about their reading experiences at retreats, in advisory groups and in their classes early in the fall. They should be able to answer questions such as, “What did you really like and why?” “What did not work for you?” “What did you learn?” “What did your summer reading make you think about?” and “What would you recommend to the rest of us?”
Sixth Grade

Entering sixth-graders are required to read a minimum of *THREE* titles prior to the start of school.

**Book 1: Required for students.**

*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

**Focus Questions for Wonder**

Upon completion of reading this book, please complete the following activities and have them with you on the first day of school. Please also remember to bring your book to school! It would be advisable to take notes, especially if you read the novel early in the summer. We also invite a parent or grandparent to read it as well.

1. Using 150 characters or less, create a sample Tweet for each of the following characters (you do not actually need to use Twitter):
   - Auggie Pullman
   - Via Pullman
   - Jack Will
   - Summer
   - Miranda
   - Justin
   - Julian

   Example:
   **So excited that he hung my artwork.**  
   #TushmanPrincipalWhoCares#ManWhoDefends  
   #WishMorePeopleWereLikeHim

2. On an 8.5x11 sheet of paper, please redesign the cover using whatever materials you would like. During the first week of school, you will be asked to share your new design and tell your classmates why you chose your design.

**Book 2: Required for students – select ONE of the following:**

*One Thousand and One Arabian Nights* by Geraldine McCaughrean

(Oxford edition) King Shahryar is entralled by the stories of his new bride Shahrazad. Take a magic carpet ride and experience these tales of humor, horror, wisdom, deceit, incredible adventure and love.

*The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

What if the gods of Olympus were alive in the 21st Century? What if they still fell in love with mortals and had children who might become great heroes—like
Theseus, Jason and Hercules? What if you were one of those children? Such is the discovery that launches 12-year-old Percy Jackson on the most dangerous quest of his life—to catch a thief who has stolen the original weapon of mass destruction, Zeus’ master bolt. Along the way, he must face a host of mythological enemies determined to stop him. Most of all, he must come to terms with a father he has never known and an Oracle who has warned him of betrayal by a friend.

**Book 3: Your choice**

**A great place to find exemplary books:**
http://www.ala.org/yalsa/2016-best-best

**Or consider these books enjoyed by sixth-grade teachers:**

**Karr, Kathleen**
*Exile: Memoirs of a Camel*
As part of the United States Camel Corps, Ali, a camel originally from North Africa, crosses the Texas desert in 1856. He must balance his work ethic with his dreams of freedom. This little-known slice of civil war history is told from the unique perspective—that of a camel and sheds light on American and Arabic histories and cultures during the 1860’s.

**Konigsburg, E. L.**
*A View from Saturday*
Four students, bound together through intertwined lives, attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent the sixth grade in the formidable Academic Bowl competition.

**Levine, Dr. Mel**
*Jarvis Clutch: Social Spy*
“Social interactions are often the most stressful aspect of adolescent life. In this book, the author teams up with fictitious eighth-grader Jarvis Clutch to offer insight and advice on the middle school social scene. Jarvis’s spy notes provide a bird’s eye view of the often traumatic social experiences that middle school students are bound to encounter.” (Recommended for parents too.)

**Paterson, Katherine**
*The Great Gilly Hopkins*
Unhappy and badly behaved, Gilly has bounced from foster home to foster home. About to give up on her, the social worker stumbles across a new and surprising family for Gilly.

**Paulsen, Gary**
*Hatchet*
Bitter about his parents’ divorce, Brian Robeson finds himself stranded in the Canadian wilderness, where he must put his anger behind him and struggle to stay alive.
Paulsen, Gary  
**Woodsong**  
The popular writer for young people recalls his experiences with “sleds and dogs,” from his introduction to sled-dog racing in northern Minnesota to the 17 grueling days he spends with his 15-dog team in Alaska’s Iditarod race.

Rawls, Wilson  
**Where the Red Fern Grows**  
This novel is a heartwarming classic about a 10-year-old boy growing up in the Ozarks and his inseparable pair of coonhounds.

Sachar, Louis  
**Holes**  
Holes is a darkly humorous award winner about a motley group of boys at a detention center run by some unsavory adults. Everyone learns lessons about crime, punishment, and redemption.

Serraillier, Ian  
**Beowulf the Warrior**  
This is the story of the hero Beowulf and his three memorable exploits—his rescue of Hrothgar the Dane from the ravages of monstrous Grendel, his victory over Grendel’s strange and horrible mother, and the saving of his own people, the Geats, from a dragon.

Spinelli, Jerry  
**Maniac Magee**  
Jeffrey “Maniac” Magee, a white boy who runs faster and hits balls farther than anyone, runs away from his loveless home to Two Mills, a town racially divided into the black East End and the white West End.

Stevenson, Robert Louis  
**Treasure Island**  
Set in the days of sailing ships and pirates, this classic retells the adventures of cabin boy Jim Hawkins and his search for the buried treasure of the notorious pirate Captain Flint.

**Seventh Grade**

We encourage students to read to relax, to escape, to explore and to pursue their passions, and we ask them to read a minimum of THREE titles over the course of the summer. We expect all students to be prepared to discuss their reactions to their reading in small and large classroom groups.

**Book 1: Required for students.**

Teachers will be doing a lot of work with this novel during the first couple of weeks of school; please read this title in the month of August or review the work prior to coming back to school.
Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys
January 1945. The war in Europe is in its end stages as German forces are beaten back by the Allied armies. To escape the Soviet advance on the eastern front, thousands of refugees flee to the Polish coast. In this desperate flight for freedom, four young people—each from very different backgrounds and each with dark secrets—connect as they vie for passage on the Willhelm Gustloff, a former pleasure cruiser used to evacuate the refugees. Packed to almost 10 times its original capacity, the ship is hit by Soviet torpedoes fewer than 12 hours after leaving port. As the ship sinks into the icy waters of the Baltic Sea, what was supposed to be an avenue for escape quickly becomes another fight to survive the randomness of war.
–Library Journal

Book 2: Required for students - select ONE of the following.

Adams, Richard
Watership Down
Alvarez, Julia
Before We Were Free
Morpurgo, Michael
The Elephant in the Garden
Twain, Mark
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Woodsen, Jacqueline
Brown Girl Dreaming

Book 3: Your choice

A great place to find exemplary books:
http://www.ala.org/yalsa/2016-best-best

Eighth Grade

As eighth-graders embark on their final year in the Middle School, we continue to celebrate the joy of reading by asking them to read at least THREE books over the course of the summer. We expect all students to be prepared to discuss their reactions to the books in small and large classroom groups.

Book 1: Required for students.

Colin Fischer by Ashley Edward Miller

Book 2: Required for students - Select ONE of the following.

Adams, Douglas
The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy
Ford Perfect reveals to his friend, Arthur Dent, that he is not really an Earthling but a roving reporter from a distant planet whose mission is to compile a travel guide to the galaxy. The adventures of these two characters are comical to the very end.
Ayer, Eleanor  
*Parallel Journeys*  
She is a young German Jew. He is a staunch supporter of Hitler and the creation of a “master race.” Alternating chapters trace the experiences of Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck during the Nazi reign of terror and WWII.

Beales, Melba Patillo  
*Warriors Don’t Cry*  
In 1957, Melba Patillo turned sixteen. That was also the year she became a warrior on the front lines of a civil rights firestorm. Follow her story of courage and resolve as she paves the way for the privileges that all of us enjoy.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker  
*Jefferson’s Sons*  
This is the untold story of Thomas Jefferson’s slave children and the complexities of skin color within the same family. Will the act of “passing” carry implications Jefferson’s children are unable to bear on their own?

Bracken, Alexander  
*Brightly Woven*  
A young wizard, Wayland North, is searching for an assistant who will join him in his quest to save a village. He chooses Sydelle Mirabil for the job, but why? Join Sydelle on her journey with Wayland as she discovers secrets about this wizard and why he’s chosen her.

Going, K.L.  
*Fat Kid Rules the World*  
Have you ever felt alone in the world; that you are the one person who doesn’t quite fit in? If the answer is yes, read this book; if the answer is no, read this book anyway. This is a book for anyone who escapes reality through music.

Lupica, Mike  
*Summer Ball*  
When you are the smallest guy on the basketball court, the challenges at times seem insurmountable. Just ask Danny Walker as he leads his travel team to the national championship. His experience at a summer camp for basketball players changes his opinion of the game.

### Book 3: Your choice

A great place to find exemplary books:  

A note to students and parents...  
Middle-School students submitted the following Kent Denver recommendations; these titles are suggested as a way of offering choice for students. The titles offer a wide variety of reading interests, levels and content.

Some inclusions have been edited for the purpose of clarity and space; however, we have tried to honor the student’s writing.
Recommendations from our Middle School

Anderson, Jodi Lynn

Tiger Lily
This darker retelling of the beloved story, Peter Pan, will leave you with tears in your eyes and chills down your back. Narrated by Tinker Bell, this tells the unknown tale of the tribal girl, Tiger Lily. Anderson uses poetic and beautiful words to tell her story of the young girl who falls for the scandalous lost boy who lives in the woods, Peter Pan. Among these pages the stories of all our favorite characters, Tiger Lily, Peter, Tinker Bell, Wendy, Smee and Captain Hook are intertwined. This is an engaging and engrossing book and will make you anxious to read the next page.

Ellie Sullivan, class of 2020

Asher, Jay

Thirteen Reasons Why
Thirteen Reasons Why is the perfect book for you if you enjoy thought-provoking and mind-stimulating novels. This fiction novel, written by Jay Asher has appeared regularly on the New York Times bestsellers list for the past 9 years! Before reading Thirteen Reasons Why, I never really thought about how I could impact other people’s lives. After reading it, I have gained a whole new awareness of how much I can truly affect somebody. The novel is based on a girl name Hannah Baker. Throughout the book, the reader listens to tapes recorded on seven cassette tapes the night before her suicide through the perspective of Clay Jenson, a boy she went to school with. He is the narrator and guide of the novel and much of the action that takes place in the story is in Clay’s head, allowing for a deep good insight into his character and personality. The tapes are full of her perspectives and explanations as to why she killed herself. Hannah tells thirteen stories, including twelve people on her list. I would recommend this book to everybody- boy or girl who like thought-provoking books that have to do with suicide or depression. This book really made me think in a way I never would have before reading it.

Caley Capoot, class of 2020

Auch, MJ

One-Handed Catch
The book One-Handed Catch by MJ Auch is an interesting story of how a boy named Norm loses his left hand in a meat grinder on July 4, 1946. Norm is forced to figure out how to do everything from tying his shoes to hitting a baseball without one of his hands. There are many ups and downs throughout Norm’s adjustment from being fully functional to having only one hand. He must figure out how to make this tragic mishap into something that he can live with. Follow Norm on his journey of life through his magical creations with a paintbrush to his crack at being a baseball player.

Max Hewitt, class of 2020
Austen, Jane

Jane Austen writes *Northanger Abbey* with a mixture of humor and romance that combines to form an enjoyable and absorbing novel. *Northanger Abbey* tells the story of Catherine Morland, an average young country girl during the 1800s. She has never once thought of parties, romance or marriage until a friend offers to take her along on a six week stay in Bath. In Bath her life is suddenly packed with balls and suitors. One suitor, Henry Tilney, particularly catches her interest. When Catherine is offered to stay at Henry’s estate, Northanger Abbey, she eagerly accepts. However, Catherine soon discovers that this Abbey could hold more than what meets the eye.

Ellie Sullivan, class of 2020

Aveyard, Victoria

Not only did I instantaneously become absorbed into this book, but it was everything I love in a great novel. In a world where the wealthy Silvers with their own superhuman abilities force the common Red people to do the dirty work for them, one teenage girl shatters the social norm kept in the country for centuries. When Mare Barrow, a poor red thief, discovers she has superhuman abilities that rival those of the Silver Queen herself but blood that is still very much red, she is sucked into a never ending tsunami of raging politics, fierce romance, and an organization intent on doing whatever it takes to stop the Silver elites. With a riveting storyline and plot twists that come out of nowhere, *Red Queen* is a true masterpiece that fans of the *Hunger Games* and *Quantum Prophecy* alike will cherish.

Jeremy Gart, class of 2020

Barnes, Jennifer L.

*The Naturals*

*The Naturals* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes is a mystery novel that is told in the viewpoint of Cassie. Cassie, a seventeen year old girl, works for the FBI as a profiler because of her talent that allows her to figure people out. She lives a life of solving homicides and lives in a house with other teens just like her. This is a coming of age book. Cassie comes of age by gaining knowledge in the FBI. This is a book for teenagers who love to solve mysteries and are looking for a fun read. A enjoyable and descriptive book.

Rianna Batra, class of 2020

Bell, Dr. Rob

*The Hinge*

This book teaches you the importance of mental toughness that is needed for being an athlete. Dr. Rob Bell states that everything, the prize, what you are competing for comes down to one moment. He teaches you how to be ready for that one moment. One moment can determine everything, and you can not be overwhelmed, you can not be nervous, you have to be tough, not only physically, but mentally. Reading this book has changed the way I thought about my sport. It makes me think about things differently, and I feel that, that is extremely helpful. This book is not written like a regular book, it gives real life examples, and it
seems as Dr. Rob Bell is talking to you personally. I would recommend this book to any athlete having trouble “grasping” their brain, or really any athlete. I feel reading this book with improve one tremendously as a mental athlete.

Campbell Patteson, class of 2020

Bowen, Jame

A Street Cat Named Bob

A Street Cat Named Bob follows the journey of James and his cat Bob. James finds Bob one day when working on the streets of London. There is an instant connection and the rest of the book follows James and Bob on their journey. James’s addiction and the everyday struggles of angry drunk people on the streets of London is one of their journeys. I found the book interesting at times but was quite lost most of the time. The book was at its best when I saw James fighting his addiction or James getting arrested for being in a restricted area. A Street Cat Named Bob is over all interesting, but it feels like the daily routine and not a story.

Will Kandel, class of 2020

Bradbury, Ray

Fahrenheit 451

Imagine a future where books are illegal. Where all you have to do in life is watch television, go to amusement parks, go speed driving, and have fun. Does it sound perfect? Fahrenheit 451 shows that a future like that is not perfect, and could have serious consequences for humanity. It centers around Guy Montag, a fireman who burns books for a living. Guy is perfectly content with his life burning books and watching television until he meets Clarisse. Clarisse makes him question what it really means to be happy, to be a human and to live. As the book progresses, Guy starts to see flaws in his socalled “perfect” utopia and realizes the power of reading. This is an exciting and absorbing book for all science fiction and dystopian lovers.

Ellie Sullivan, class of 2020

Brashares, Ann

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

I recommend reading The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants to anyone that loves suspenseful and heart-warming stories. Throughout the book the story of the lives of four best friends, Lena, Tibby, Bridget, and Carmen are consistently overlapping with eachother. Because each of the young women go through their different lives during the summer, unable to spend a lot of time with eachother they decided that a special pair of jeans would be the thread holding their friendship together. Although the book is a great read for anyone, the targeted audience is teenage women. Join Lena, Tibby, Bridget, and Carmen throughout their different summers as they jump through different obstacles and go on crazy adventures, this novel will undoubtedly have you reading nonstop.

Caley Capoot, class of 2020

Brown, Dan

The Da Vinci Code

The story is told from multiple points of view and is a very intriguing read. It is a mystery adventure book with a great story. The book is meant for teenagers and young adults. I would absolutely recommend this book to anyone who likes a
quick read that is very fun. The *Da Vinci Code* starts when an American symbolist helps the French police investigate a murder. He is found guilty of this crime, but he knows that he is innocent. One of the cryptographers knows that he is innocent as well, so she helps him escape. The duo go on a wild chase that Jacques Sauniere, the man who was murdered, left them. The quest is to find the holy grail. It is a great book that is filled with double meanings that are hidden all over the place. The *Da Vinci Code* is one of my favorite books of all time.

**Connor Capoot, class of 2021**

**Brown, Daniel James**

*The Boys in the Boat*

Daniel James Brown tells a story like no other author. From the life and historical details to the rowing, he never skips a beat. The story focuses on Joe Rantz and the 1936 Washington State varsity crew. As Joe struggles his way through the Great Depression, he experiences many hardships that he learns to overcome. Daniel James Brown brilliantly weaves the story of Joe’s many ups and downs with that of the rest of the world at the time, leaving you breathless and awestruck. From the second you open this book, you will not want to stop reading; it is as if you are in the boat with the Washington crew, experiencing every stroke and all of the pain. I give Daniel James Brown my highest regards and recommend this book to anyone looking for an intense page-turner filled with delight.

**Winslow Atkeson, class of 2020**

**Burpo, Todd**

*Heaven is for Real*

The book *Heaven is for Real* by Todd Burpo is an inspiring novel that enlightens the reader with a view of a little boy’s brief experience in heaven. In this story, a young boy goes on a medical journey through almost three different hospitals. Colton, a four year old boy, is on the edge of death when the doctors are blindsided by his diagnoses. During one of Colton’s operations, he said he went to heaven for exactly 3 minutes and angels sang to him. Nobody quite knows why he had this experience, but if you read *Heaven is for Real*, you can take part in his journey and learn many new things that can change your life and your perspective on heaven.

**Annabelle S. Johnson, class of 2020**

**Cameron W., Bruce**

*A Dog’s Purpose*

*A Dog’s Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron is an amazing book. This book is written from a dog’s point of view as he travels through many lives. In their lives, his one main goal is to find his purpose. This book is a good choice for animal lovers and people who do not have the best time reading. But whoever picks up this book should be warned. You will cry.

**Rianna Batra, class of 2020**

**Christie, Agatha**

*Murder on the Orient Express*

This suspenseful mystery, written by the “queen of mystery” Agatha Christie, hooks the reader in and does not let go. The book starts on the peaceful civilized Orient Express, but things turn around quickly when a murder takes place on the train. It is up to the detective riding on the train to figure out who did the deed.
However, as many unexpected twists and turns come up, the detective starts to put the pieces together, and so does the reader. This book is perfect for people who like to “guess” what happened before the book is over. The novel gives the reader enough detail to form theories about who did it, however, the ending will be a tremendous twist. This novel is perfect for anyone who wants an relatively easy page turner where twists and turns happen on every other page.

**Campbell Patteson, class of 2020**

**Clavell, James**

*Shogun* is an excellent book for all those who love suspense, drama, and romance. Set in the backdrop of 16th century Japan, the Pilot John Blackthorne is the first Englishman to ever set foot in Japan, where he is wrapped up in the struggle between two warlords. This novel goes deeper than a typical samurai book, however. Clavell’s cleverly written novel looks into the basis of the human’s idea of barbarism, and what we, as humans, consider “civilization”.

**Will Halverson, class of 2020**

**Collins, Suzanne**

*The Hunger Games* is a fast past romantic game about a political system run under only one man. Every year they have a game called the Hunger Games where all 12 districts fight to the death to have 1 victor. 2 people from every district have to go and fight in the games. It gets your heart started with many twists and turns.

**McKay Lindsay, class of 2020**

I would recommend this book to anyone who is in the mood for a riveting and exciting fun novel. In this book, the reader hears from Katniss Everdeen, a fearless teenager. This novel is for you if you love action, romance and suspense. Katniss is a young girl who has a big dream and shows us the true meaning of love. She has to learn how to defend herself so that she can win the Hunger Games. I would recommend this book if you loved the movie or if you want to enter the world of District 12.

**Lauren Tannyhill, class of 2020**

**Collins, Suzanne**

*Mockingjay* How would it feel to have your home city completely destroyed? In the book *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins, Katniss Everdeen proves that no matter what, you should not stop trying to achieve your goal. In this novel, Katniss tries save the people in the districts of Panem from the capital’s control. She bravely makes many sacrifices to help the districts. Follow Katniss’s heartbreak and sadness as she has to make tough life changing decisions with every action she takes.

**Elsie Jacobsen, class of 2020**
Dashner, James

The book *The Death Cure* by James Dashner is packed with action and excitement. It is the third book in *The Maze Runner* trilogy and it is a story of hope told from the perspective of a boy named Thomas. His friends and him are put through a series of tests in order to find the cure from a disease that is wiping out the human race. The Death Cure is full of ethical dilemmas that Thomas and his friends must solve in order to save everyone. This book will undoubtedly keep the reader on their toes throughout the whole book and that is why I enjoyed it so much. This book should be read by anyone who wants a tale of excitement, heroics, and a little bit of romance.

Courtney Hancock, class of 2020

Dashner, James

The *Maze Runner* by James Dashner is an intriguing thrilling and suspenseful book that will leave the reader on the edge of their seat. With a lot of boys with no memories are stuck in an area, with seemingly no way out. Something happens that will change what everyone thinks. This big events not only changes the perspective of the characters, but also the reader, making the reader feel like they are living in the novel. This page turner is recommended for anyone who enjoyed books like *The Hunger Games Trilogy* and *The Divergent Trilogy*. The book shows how one even can change one’s life, and is impossible to put down.

Campbell Patteson, class of 2020

DeLuca, Laura and Leah Bassoff

The book *Lost Girl Found* by Leah Bassoff is an incredible book explaining a powerful story on a young girl’s journey to escape the war in Sudan. The book takes place in Southern Sudan in a small village. Poni, the main character is a young 12 year old girl living happily with her family, when suddenly war arrives in her village. In a fright of panic, her only choice is to run. She runs, and runs, until suddenly she finds herself with a group of refugees heading towards Kakuma, a refugee camp in Kenya. As the rest of the story unfolds, you’ll see the devastation war brings and the bravery all the refugees must have to face the consequences that come ahead. Noni is challenged to face the hardest decisions of her life, ones that will change her future forever. This book is perfect for someone interested in history and experiencing a wild adventure in the perspective of a refugee. With a strong message and a story that will stir one’s emotions, *Lost Girl Found* is the book to read.

Sydney Toffa, class of 2021

Dickinson, Emily

*The Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson*

Emily Dickinson, a poet born in the 1800s, who was, from the the introduction, energetic and intelligent. She did well in school, but in her twenties, spent all of her time in her room, devoting her life to poetry. She wrote beautiful pieces that were well appreciated after her death. This book is a collection of all of the well-thought out, energetic, yet calm poems. The language in her writing takes a
while to get used to, being that her poems were written in the 1800s, but, when you look deeper into what Emily Dickinson is saying in her poems, you will feel her happiness, pain, sorrow, and love with her. I would recommend this book of collected poems, for anyone who has a deep appreciation for individuality in poetry, and just plain poetry. Very nice to sit down, and appreciate all of someone’s work right there in front of you.

Campbell Patteson, class of 2020

Draper, Sharon

Out of My Mind

The book Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper is a heartwarming book that is full hope. It is told from the perspective of an eleven-year-old girl named Melody Brooks who suffers from cerebral palsy. This a disorder that she was born with that makes her unable to walk or talk. Not being able to function properly like her peers drives Melody out of her mind, which is what creates the main conflict, man versus self. Out of My Mind is an amazing story that truly shows the reader what it is like being a teenage girl who has everything to say, but can say nothing at all. I immediately fell in love with this book because I grew up around disabled kids and this book gave me a look into their world. I would recommend this book to people of all ages who have a relationship with someone like Melody Brooks, so that they can understand what it is like having all of their thoughts trapped in a bottle.

Courtney Hancock, class of 2020

Dumas, Alexandre

The Count of Monte Cristo

This classic novel is the beautifully written story of the young sailor Edmond Dantes, who falls in love and is about to be married when his life is changed forever and he is thrown into prison for a crime he didn’t commit. From Rome to Paris, this novel chronicles the stories of a complex cast of characters, all caught up in the huge drama that unfolds as the story continues, painting a panorama of elaborate, exciting events. This book is one to read on a Saturday morning during a blizzard, with a hot mug of tea by your arm. Anyone who enjoys the older, more traditional kind of storytelling will love this book.

Will Halverson, class of 2020

Elliott, LM

Across a War Tossed Sea

Across a War Tossed Sea is a quick and entertaining read and is great for people who want something easy and fast. The book follows two British boys who were shipped to America to escape the German bombings of London. Wesley, the younger brother, is traumatized by the perilous journey across the pond. He faces dramatic episodes throughout the book and his brother, Charles, has to help calm him down. Also, life in America isn’t easy for Wesley because he is nerdy and is teased by classmates and even bullied by his host-family’s son Ron. You’re sure to
love this page turning book.
Harrison Davies, class of 2020

Elston, Ashley

The Rules For Disappearing
This book will immediately draw you in and have you wondering what happens next. It is an excellent book for readers who love mystery and romance. Anna Boyd, a teenage girl who has been involved in the Witness Protection Program for eight months now, has changed identities, schools, houses and states six times. She longs for answers, but when Anna meets a Louisiana boy named Ethan, it’s difficult to keep her secret. When Anna learns her family is in real danger, she decides to risk her life and Ethan’s to protect her family. But the most dangerous thing might be the one person she thought she could trust.
Abigail Jack, class of 2020

Jeffrey Eugenides

Middlesex
The book Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides is a beautifully written novel that takes you through three generations of the Stephanides family. This book has it all, inappropriate romance, family problems, and the struggle of independence. Most of all, this book shows Calliope’s struggle in finding who she is. However, her development is not like her classmates, and she finds out something about herself. Calliope is a hermaphrodite. The story starts in Turkey, during the Turkish war. However, the majority of the novel takes place in Michigan during the 60’s. A time of racial discrimination and segregation. This book is intriguing and touches on many topics. I strongly recommend it to anyone that enjoys good writing and a story with multiple plots.
Charlotte Mauger, class of 2020

Fitzgerald, F. Scott

This Side of Paradise
This Side of Paradise is a beautiful story about a boy coming of age. It focuses on the life Amory Blaine, an egotistical young man growing up in a wealthy family. Amory attends Princeton, and during his time there he meets many young women who educate him on what it means to love. Amory tries desperately to change himself from an “egotist” into a “personage”. Filling these pages are lyrical prose and beautiful quotes such as, “‘The world is so overgrown that it can’t lift its own fingers, and I was planning to be such an important finger.’”(199). If anyone has felt lost or confused about where to go next in life this would be a good book to set you on the right path.
Ellie Sullivan, class of 2020

Flanagan, John

The Ranger’s Apprentice
If you like a well built story that is full of suspense, action, and many adventures, then The Rangers Apprentice books are for you. The main character, Will, starts as a small weaker kid but as the story advances and Will trains with his master, he metamorphoses into an extremely skilled ranger who can hit the bullseyes constantly with both knives and arrows. In time, Will has to fight a huge beast in order to save his master and his friend which gives the book a nice bit of suspense.
to see if he could save them in time. Overall, this is an amazing novel, and I definitely recommend this book to all old and new readers who enjoy a great adventure novel.

**Jake Writer, class of 2020**

**Forman, Gayle**  
*If I Stay*
This is a great book for anyone that loves romance, suspense and drama. It will have you on the edge of your seat the entire novel. The reader reads the book from a teenage girl’s point of view. She is in love with her life, but in an instant it is ripped away from her and she has to choose between life and death. Mia makes an important decision that will change her life forever. Read this book if you are looking for a romantic, riveting and tragic story.

**Lauren Tannyhill, class of 2020**

**Gibbs, Stuart**  
*Big Game*
In the book *Big Game* by Stuart Gibbs, the whole story is told from the perspective of a twelve year old which makes this whole book much more interesting and easier to connect with because I am also twelve years old. Stuart Gibbs is one of the best writers that I have come across because him books are all based off of kids my age. His books all have some tangled up mystery wrapped up inside the plot which always makes the book more interesting to read. His books are for anyone who is interested in funny mysteries, and also for people who really like zoos (like me) because this book is based at a zoo which makes the whole plot more wild!

**Samuel Choi, class of 2021**

**Gibbs, Stuart**  
*Spy School*
*Spy School* by Stuart Gibbs is a novel about a boy named Ben Ripley who is selected into CIA Operatives training facility. Ben meets a girl named Erica Hale, and they have to find out who the “mole” is. A “mole” is someone potentially working for another company and trying to get information. This mystery takes you through Ben’s first year as an “agent”. Ben and Erica find out the mole is one of Ben’s friends, Murray. Character development is easily seen throughout the book. *Spy School* has a complex plot, with many subplots to compliment the overarching theme, friendship and being undercover.

**Lukas Thomas, class of 2020**

**Green, John**  
*An Abundance of Katherines*
I would recommend this book to anyone who loves funny and heart-warming stories. In this book, the reader reads Colin Singleton’s point of view. Colin has a thing for girls named Katherine. After his 19th girlfriend (named Katherine) breaks up with him, he is crushed. His best friend Hassan is sick of seeing him so upset and takes him on a road trip across the United States. We get to find out why Colin loves Katherines and what happens on this adventure. Read this book if you...
love adventure and comedy.  
Lauren Tannyhill, class of 2020

Green, John  
$Looking for Alaska$

The average wallflower, Miles Halter’s life becomes turned upside down when he goes to a boarding school in Alabama searching for his “great perhaps”. At this school, he meets Chip, Takumi, Laura, and most memorable of all, Alaska. Alaska is the beautiful, smart, intriguing enigma that he encounters at this school. With a personality larger than life she enchants Miles and steals his heart. This group of friends spends their year studying for classes, plotting revenge against bullies and pulling legendary pranks. That is until one night when everything changes. John Green writes with a mixture of humor and heartbreak that draws readers into his world. This book is entertaining, yet also makes readers question things such as religion, love, life, and death.  
Ellie Sullivan, class of 2020

Green, John  
$Paper Towns$

The bestseller $Paper Towns$ by John Green, is a novel that takes the reader on a ride, that shows how a person is more intricate than they seem. The story follows two characters that were strangers until one magical and comedic night. When Quentin Jacobsen’s neighbor Margo Roth Spiegelman, disappears he goes on adventure to find her. Q had always marveled over Margo’s beauty but he soon began to realize as he goes looking for her that she was not just a pretty face, instead she was complicated. The story is a coming of age book that shows that someone can be more convoluted than they look. Follow Q as he leaves the $Paper Towns$ to find Margo Roth Spiegelman.  
Delaney Cain, class of 2020

Green, John  
$The Fault in Our Stars$

John Green’s $The Fault in Our Stars$ is about a blossoming romance that takes root in a tragic disease. Hazel Grace is a teenage girl who fights a constant battle with cancer. While in a cancer support group, she meets a boy named Augustus Waters who once had cancer. Together they form a deep friendship that turns into a passionate romance. They make it their goal to meet the author, Peter Van Houten, of Hazel Grace’s favorite book. The two spent time, effort, and money to track the author down in his hometown of Amsterdam. Peter Van Houten is an utter disappointment. He is a cruel alcoholic who says that there was no point to the end of the novel that Hazel Grace found so meaningful. Although Peter Van Houten was a let down, the city was not. Hazel and Augustus went sight seeing and saw museums. Then, the book suddenly concludes with a tragic plot twist that leaves the reader surprised and weeping at the same time. This book gives a wonderful insight into the life of teens and people with cancer. It gives an understanding that can provide empathy rather than sympathy for those with cancer.  
Eleanor Gillett, class of 2020
In the fantastic book *Paper Towns* by John Green, we follow a shy teenage boy about to graduate from high school while falling for an outgoing, old friend of his who suddenly disappears. On the journey to find her, Quentin makes new friends, gets through the rest of high school, and makes decisions that will impact his life forever. The reader gets to experience Quentin’s point of view and discover another teenage world filled with confusion, conflict, drama, and adventure. I recommend reading this book. You’ll enjoy it!

Lauren Tannyhill, class of 2020

Something about the amazing Margo Roth Spiegelman has captured the love of Quentin Jacobsen in *Paper Towns*, by John Green. After watching the popular, beautiful, and adventurous Margo from the sidelines almost all his life, one night, Quentin becomes a part of her world. When Margo climbs through Quentin’s window one night, asking for his help, he can’t help but wonder what kind of adventure she has planned. Together, they spend the night pulling pranks on people. Quentin hopes that life at school will change with her, only to find out she has disappeared. After finding a series of clues, Quentin goes on a journey to find his beloved Margo, only to discover more of her than he had intended. This is a marvelous comedic mystery, written by an author loved by many. I would recommend this novel to any teen looking for an amazing read.

Olivia Choi, class of 2020

This excellent novel covers a soldier’s travels through mountains, plains, and cities, and through it all it reminds one of the power of family. The young soldier, Alessandro, is swept up in a storm that pushes him everywhere but where he wants to go—back home. So the book, at heart, is more than an epic adventure. It captures the essence of a simple, heartwarming novel describing the love that a young man has for his family, despite his constant desires for independence. However, if you enjoy grand romance and adventure stories, this book should certainly be your next read.

Will Halverson, class of 2020

A sense of intrigue, thoughtfulness, and cynicism seemed to revolve around this book starting on the first page and not ending until the last word. The book follows Henry Denton, seemingly average high school aged boy with a rough home life. His tales of alien abductions have further separated him from his classmates, and their ridicule always rings in his ears. However, the stories he tells are true. Ever since he was thirteen years old, he has been regularly abducted by aliens. I originally found this part a little strange, though I quickly accepted it because the way that the author writes it into the plot is so smooth, that there isn’t any time to question it. Over time, Henry realizes that the aliens are trying
to tell him something, and he eventually realizes three key things: 1. He doesn’t know how, but he knows that the world will end. 2. This apocalypse will occur in exactly 144 days. 3. However cliche it may be, he can stop this imminent doom with the simple push of a button. For most people, this may be a straightforward answer, but for Henry, it is quite the dilemma. His life has never been easy, with his abusive brother and his pregnant girlfriend, his mom and her drugs, and his nonexistent father, coupled with the fact that Henry’s boyfriend committed suicide just the summer before. It has many powerful moments, and the first few pages blew my mind with their depth. Henry is not a character that the reader will quickly forget.

Katja Matter, class of 2021

Jonasson, Jonas

*The 100 Year Old Man*

This book is the story of a 100-year-old Swedish man with an interesting and eventful history. It is two stories in one, switching between each one. One is the story of his history. I find this one the most interesting, as it ties into multiple events in history. The other is of him and his friends fleeing the police, as they were wanted for the murder of “Bucket” and “Bolt”, members of the criminal circle *Never Again*. The 100 Year Old Man is an amazing classic for all who enjoy a comedy that ties in with our world history.

Peter Colwell, class of 2021

Knowles, John

*A Separate Peace*

Phineas and Gene are two schoolboys who attend the Devon school of New Hampshire during 1940 and World War 1. Phineas is handsome, taunting, and athletic, while Gene is well-born, scholarly, and quiet. Yet somehow the boys become best friends, inseparable from one another. Knowles gives a perfect atmosphere for this intellectual boarding school, and masterfully selects an atmosphere of introverted speculation from Gene’s point of view that is suddenly disrupted by a tragic turn of events that will change both boy’s lives forever. A heart-stoppingly tragic coming-of-age story, both boys struggle amidst the war backdrop to come to a separate peace with themselves and each other.

Will Halverson, class of 2020

Le Guin, Ursula

*A Wizard of Earthsea*

This book is a fantasy novel about Sparrowhawk’s journey as an young wizard in Earthsea. He learns wizardry from master teachers at Gont but then looseneds a shadow upon the world. He travels all over Earthsea from an archipelago, much like the Pacific Islands, to an arctic land much like Scandinavia. The book covers areas such as magic, dragons, and spirits. The book provides you with a detailed map of the known world of Earthsea that can be used if you have the patience to go through every island to figure where in the world you are. Otherwise the map is stunning to look at.

Jack Parkhouse, class of 2020
Lee, Harper

*Go Set a Watchman*

*Go Set a Watchman* is the sequel to Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In this book, twenty-six year old Jean Louise, known by her childhood name Scout, returns home to Maycomb County, Alabama to visit her friends and family. Once she arrives she is surprised to find that the views of her father, Atticus Finch, and the town she calls home have changed. It is hard for Scout to understand how the level of racism has increased and how that affects her family and town. Although different from *To Kill a Mockingbird* it is still an interesting coming of age story for both young and old readers.

Eden Gill, class of 2020

Lee, Harper

*Go Set a Watchman*

*Go Set a Watchman*, the sequel to the critically acclaimed *To Kill a Mockingbird*, is a novel written about Scout (Jean Louise Finch) when she is twenty five and comes back to Maycomb. Throughout the story it shows how Maycomb has changed and also exposes a new side to Atticus Finch which no one has seen before. I strongly recommend this book to anyone who has read and enjoyed *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Ari Diamond-Topelson, class of 2020

Lore, Pittacus

*I Am Number Four*

*I Am Number Four* is a thrilling novel about struggling to fit in and stay alive. 14 years ago a spaceship landed with 9 protectors and 9 caretakers on planet Earth to stop Mogadorians from killing the entire Lorien population. The Lorien are protected by a spell that states they can only be killed in order of their number, unless brought together. When Four moves to Ohio, he assumes the name John Smith and everything goes downhill from there. *I Am Number Four* is an adventure book and is recommended for young adults, almost all of whom will enjoy the tale.

Kayla Robertson, class of 2020

Love, Jessica

*In Real Life*

After four years of talking online, Hannah Cho would finally like to meet her best friend Nick Cooper. In, *In Real Life* by Jessica Love, Hannah and Nick are the best of friends that know everything about each other, and they might even have feelings for each other. When Hannah decides to surprise Nick in person, their whole relationship takes a turn. Hannah discovers that Nick has been keeping a secret from her. Hannah tries to not let these secrets affect her, but it is harder than she thought. I recommend this book to anyone looking for a romance with a twist, and a little bit of mystery.

Olivia Choi, class of 2020

Lowry, Lois

*The Giver*

The Giver by Lois Lowry is the perfect book for anybody who enjoys reading thought-provoking and compelling novel. The novel is told through the lens of
Jonas, a boy who lives in a perfect society. A society with no pain, no crime, no conflict, and ultimately nothing but joy and happiness. Although Jonas had always felt a little different from everyone else, it was not until he received his “life assignment” to be the “Receiver of Memories” that he discovered the secrets about the past world. As Jonas is trained by the previous Receiver, now called “the Giver”, he is filled with memories of a past. These memories included horrible things such as war, hunger, and disease, but also, for the first time color, emotions, and love. As Jonas comes to resent the highly monitored world he lives in he is forced to make the most important decision of his life. A decision that could change everything. I would definitely recommend this novel to anybody who enjoys utopian and dystopian fiction novels To find out what Jonas decides is right to do, read The Giver by Lois Lowry.

Caley Capoot, class of 2020

Lowry, Lois
The Giver

The Giver by Lois Lowry, is an extraordinary book that makes the reader think about life and what a privilege it is to have freedom. This science-fiction future set novel is about a young boy, Jonas, in an idealistic society free from horrors in life today. He lives normally, until one day he is chosen to become the receiver of memories. There, he see the past and figures both the benefits and negative consequences of perfection. The book is a rather easy-read, yet it has a complexity behind that leaves the reader thinking hard about their lives.

Vivek Shah, class of 2021

Lowry, Lois
Gathering Blue

The book Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry truly makes you think about what will happen in the future. This is a wonderful story that tells the tale of a fourteen year old girl named Kira who lives in a society where citizens who are ill, old or cannot perform at work to a certain standard are put to death. Kira’s mother was killed because she had become ill at the end of her life, and Kira is crippled and lives alone. The only thing keeping her alive is her talent for sewing. When she is assigned to repair the Singer’s robe, which is the most important job in her society, she can either succeed and live or fail and die. I recommend this book to any person who enjoys a story that keeps you thinking and keeps you interested.

Emmy Hedges, class of 2020

Lu, Marie
Champion

Champion by Marie Lu is the third and final book in the Legend series. This book is an action packed novel mixed with romance and love. After a peace treaty with the colonies is broken because of a deadly virus entering and spreading into their country, Day, the main character, must offer his brother Eden to the government to find a cure that he may or may not obtain. Day is currently struggling with a sickness that may kill him in the near future if not cured. While struggling with these challenges, he tries to fix his relationship with his former girlfriend June while she runs to be the new Princess Elect. Day must risk his life for others and
fight multiple battles to stop the colonies from taking over the weak and vulnerable Republic. Will Day succeed in his mission to restore his life and all the people living in the Republic?

Bobby Fraser, class of 2020

Marquet, L. David  
_Turn The Ship Around_  
_Turn the Ship Around_ by L. David Marquet does not only provide steps on how to become a good leader but is also an amazing story of transformation that will leave interested readers thinking. Marquet has been assigned captain of the worst submarine in the navy, and he must learn to deal with the burdens that come with it. He has a plan but just needs to find the right steps to get it done. The book shows the struggle of trying to lead his group in dangerous and life-threatening events while he, himself, is being tested. He explains his clear steps on how to follow the leader-leader method during any kind of project and how he took his team from the bottom to the top of the ranks. This book gives insight on how to be a leader and implement the skills into one’s life and is a book that everyone should read.

Matthew Gin, class of 2020

Mcdougall, Christopher  
_Born to Run_  
Christopher Mcdougall’s _Born to Run_ is an intriguing book about running and the human body. The main plotline of the novel is about the narrator (Mcdougall), learning about the ancient Tarahumara tribe in Mexico, and how they run. Then, he organizes and runs a race with the the top ultra runners from United States, and the Tarahumara in the Copper Canyon. Mixed in with all of this the author goes off on many interesting tangents about the human body and running. Who will win the race, an American ultrarunner or a member of the Tarahumara tribe?

Ari Diamond-Topelson, class of 2020

Mitnick, Kevin  
_Ghost in the Wires_  
_Ghost in the wires_ is the autobiography of Kevin Mitnick. I found this book amazing to read and it is very interesting to hear how Mitnick hacks different organizations. The book starts when he was young and traces his hacking through his entire life. As the story continues, the hacking gets more and more complex but there is also higher and higher stakes if he is caught. The stories influence the reader to understand Mitnick through his personality and his motives behind hacking. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone, especially people who are interested in computers and hacking.

Grant Fitez, class of 2020

Nilsson, Pia and Lynn Marriott  
_Play Your Best Golf Now_  
This book focuses on the mind aspects in the sport of golf. It shows that even if one can hit and putt the ball, one cannot play well without keeping their mind in tact. This formal book is for avid golfers who are having mind blocks which affect their game. One main point the author focuses on is to leave the mind behind.
Leaving the mind behind means to forget about all personal problems and just play the game. This book was interesting and will engage readers because it explains how to think about the next shot, and not about winning.

Charlotte Hillary, class of 2020

Niven, Jennifer

All The Bright Places

All The Bright Places by Jennifer Niven takes a deeply moving and emotional narrative of mental illness, similar to The Fault In Our Stars (But mental illness instead of cancer). The novel tells the story of two teens, Violet and Finch. Violet recently came out of a depressive episode after her sister’s death and Finch is bipolar and comes from a not-so-great family. All The Bright Places shows that no matter what someone cares about you and that imperfections do not mean you cannot be loved. Recommended especially to people who like romance, drama, sad stories, and like John Green and Rainbow Rowell.

Gaby Zane, class of 2021

Palacio, R.J.

Wonder

If you enjoy heart-wrenching, moving books, you will definitely enjoy Wonder by R.J. Palacio. August Pullman is a fifth-grade boy with a severe facial deformity. Although his parents and sister love and care for him, they have shielded him from many outside influences such as school. At the start of the book, his mother finally decided that it’s time for Auggie to go to a real school instead of the homeschooling that he is used to. Although Auggie is afraid to face the kids’ reactions to his appearance, theirs is also part of him that wants to be “normal.” Before school starts, Auggie is introduced to a small group of students. As some students that Auggie met were accepting and kind, others were judgmental and cruel. Throughout the novel the reader follows Auggie’s first year of middle school through different perspectives; Auggie’s, some of his friend’s, and his sister’s. The different perspectives or points of view demonstrate the inner feelings of all the different characters. Ultimately is you enjoy heart-warming and uplifting novels, you should definitely read Wonder by R.J. Palacio.

Caley Capoot, class of 2020

Picoult, Jodi

My Sister’s Keeper

Kate Fitzgerald is a child living with cancer. Her sister Anna is a child living with the responsibility of saving her. Their parents genetically modified Anna so she could be an organ donor for Kate. But when Anna turns 13, she decides she is done and sues for the rights to her own body. Throughout Anna’s journey the boundaries of unconditional love are tested and ethical dilemmas arise. Should Anna have control over her body if it results in her sister’s death? Jodi Picoult chose to write the book with six characters switching as the narrator and switching between past and present times. This style gives the reader many different perspectives on the situation, making it perfect for all audiences. With a shocking
ending, *My Sister’s Keeper* will keep you on your toes asking for more.

Charlotte Mauger, class of 2020

**Riggs, Ransom**  
*Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children: Library of Souls*  
Anyone who dreams of having “peculiar” powers such as super-human strength, invisibility, pyrokinesis, and more, should read the *Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children* series by Ransom Riggs. The *Library of Souls* is the third book in the series and concludes the thrilling and eerie story of Jacob Portman’s time-traveling adventures in Peculiardom. Jacob, accompanied by his friend Emma Bloom and a talking dog named Addison MacHenry, continue their desperate mission to rescue Miss Peregrine and their friends from the monstrous wights. The future of Peculiardom as well as Jacob and Emma’s growing relationship hang in the balance. Especially appealing for creative young adults, this fantasy fiction novel will nurture the reader’s imagination, transporting them into a richly detailed alternate world.

Phoebe Wang, class of 2021

**Riordan, Rick**  
*The Trials of Apollo*  
*The Trials of Apollo*, written by Rick Riordan, is a fantastic new installment in Rick’s Percy Jackson franchise. The perspective of a self-centered god adds a hilarious touch of comedy. This is a great book that builds more onto all the unanswered questions about the series so far. With the help of a pudgy twelve year old, Apollo must survive the real world and regain his father, Zeus’s, favor through harrowing trials. Can he do it? This book gives a light-hearted laugh at the world in which the readers would surely join in.

Jolie Kim, class of 2021

**Riordan, Rick**  
*The Lost Hero*  
*The Lost Hero* is the first in a great Rick Riordan book series, and I would recommend it to anyone who has read/liked the Percy Jackson book series. It continues the story of the original Percy Jackson series. The new characters all have different secrets, and they all have to work together at Camp Half-Blood to complete a quest. It has a very fast-paced plot that is filled with adventure and action and easy vocabulary. It contains character development, and the character’s personalities are widespread and very interesting.

Arden Hovermale, class of 2020

**Riordan, Rick**  
*Percy Jackson and the Sea Monsters*  
The book *Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monsters* by Rick Riordan, is a suspenseful fantasy novel that I recommend for all young adults. This book tells the story of Percy Jackson, the son of Poseidon the Greek Mythological god, and his quest for the Golden Fleece that will heal Thalia’s Tree, which protects Camp Half-Blood, the home to kids like Percy. This book is full of excitement and adventure which will intrigue the reader for hours. Will Percy be able to save
Camp Half-Blood or will Percy’s rival Luke get to it first?

Philip Roseto, class of 2020

*Riordan, Rick*  
*The Son of Neptune*

This is a riveting and magical novel about a demigod named Percy, a son of the Greek god Poseidon. He wakes up in a Roman camp, full of Roman demigods, with no recollection of his life. He meets two outcasts by the name of Hazel, daughter of Pluto, and Frank, son of Mars. The camp is quickly alarmed when they find out that death has been trapped by one of Hera’s giants and all of the goblins and monsters are escaping from the underworld. Together, Frank, Hazel and Percy journey to Alaska to defeat the giant Alcyoneus. After a long fought battle, they defeat the giant and free death. Frank and Hazel learn that they aren’t just worthless outcasts and Percy regains his memory.

Declan Soane, class of 2020

*Rowell, Rainbow*  
*Eleanor and Park*

Set in the mid 80s, two teenagers: Eleanor, a red haired girl from a hazardous family, and Park, a quiet boy who reads comics and has an addiction to music, meet and create the story of two star-crossed lovers. This book blends love, courage, and family together to make a heart wrenching product. Young adults and teenagers who love the traditional love stories will find Rainbow Rowell’s work amazing. Although *Eleanor and Park* is a very touching novel, this is not suited those who are looking for a more exciting and unique stories.

Megan O’Donnell, class of 2020

*Sachar, Louis*  
*Holes*

This was a good book for those who love mystery. The book is about a boy named Stanley who goes to a detention center where the boys there dig holes. The warden make the boys dig holes so he can find a treasure that was buried a long time ago. I thought the book had too many different stories going on at the same time, and I thought that this was confusing. However, I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a good mystery and can put their head around many ideas in the story.

Jack Roode, class of 2020

*Robyn Schneider*  
*The Beginning of Everything*

*The Beginning of Everything* is the perfect novel for both male and female readers looking for a suspenseful, adventurous, and romantic book. Going into his last year of high school, Ezra Faulker had it all. From varsity tennis to his perfect girlfriend, he was looking to have a great year. That was before his life was turned upside down by a serious car accident. Will all of Ezra’s so-called “best friends” stick by him despite the fact that he isn’t a tennis jock or will they cease to exist and abandon him? *The Beginning of Everything*, although heartbreaking, is the cold and hard reality of life, therefore, I would not recommend this book for someone who needs a warm and happy ending to feel satisfied after reading a
Caley Capoot, class of 2020

Shahan, Sherry  

Skin and Bones

The book *Skin and Bones* written by Sherry Shahan takes place in an Eating Disorder Unit and has many ups and downs, moments of joy and sadness, and kids who are anywhere from anorexia to bulimia. 16 year old Jack “Bones” Plumb has been diagnosed with anorexia and was placed in the EDU by his parents. His roommate is David, “Lard”, who is diagnosed with compulsive overeating and will soon become his best friend. After spending a week in the EDU, “Bones” is ready to leave until he meets the manipulative, sexy, and dangerously thin, ballerina named Alice. She will do anything to override the system and get her way, even pull Bones into her tricks. “Bones”, “Lard”, and Alice become the best of friends, and they do everything together. After one of Alice’s master plans, she disappears. “Bones” does everything in his power to try to find Alice, but his all might not be enough. This book was a great read, and it would suit anyone who enjoys twisted and mysterious love stories.

Olivia Choi, class of 2020

Shepard, Sara  

Pretty Little Liars

In *Pretty Little Liars*, a mystery novel by Sara Shepard, teenager Alison Dilaurentis goes missing one summer night. Shortly after her disappearance, her four best friends, Aria, Spencer, Emily, and Hannah start receiving strange texts and emails from someone called “A”. None of the girls know who “A” is or why he is texting them. Before Alison went missing, she and her friends had a relationship full of dirty secrets no one knew. When “A” starts revealing all of their secrets in his texts, the girls start to wonder: Is Alison still alive? The book is full of unexpected twists and turns, and keeps you hooked in at all times. I recommend this book to anyone who loves a fun, mystery-filled book.

Ella vanKempen, class of 2020

Sparks, Nicholas  

A Walk to Remember

Everyone knows a Landon Carter, the “bad kid” in the neighborhood. However, Jamie Sullivan is a once in a lifetime miracle. She is the daughter of a Baptist minister, and embodies “love thy neighbor as thyself”. She volunteers at the animal shelter, brings games to kids in an orphanage and has never shown any unkindness to anyone in her life. These two are unlikely to ever cross paths until unforeseen circumstances cause them to realize they have more in common than they think. This begins their inspiring, heart-touching love story. Sparks does a wonderful job of showing Landon’s transformation into a better person. Fans of Sparks’ other work and the general romance genre will love this book. Even if you don’t like romance books, you will find this is not a typical cliche romance story, it has much, much more.

Ellie Sullivan, class of 2020
Sparks, Nicholas  
Although See Me may appear to be a typical Nicholas Sparks summer romance novel, in reality it contains more. It tells the story of Maria, the successful daughter of Mexican immigrants who works for a well known law firm. Maria’s story dramatically changes when she meets Colin, an ex-convict desperately trying to turn his life around. Although the two are on very different paths in life, they still form a strong bond. However, when Maria starts receiving threatening notes, the bond is threatened. See Me is not only for fans of romance, but also has thrilling and suspenseful moments that will to appeal to fans of any genre.  
Ellie Sullivan, class of 2020

Spinelli, Jerry  
When I first started reading Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli, I could not stop reading it! Stargirl is a book about a teenage girl, named Stargirl who is entering a new school. However, Stargirl is not your average teen. She is very unique. She carries around a pet rat and playing the ukulele between classes. The genre of this book is romantic comedy. Even though the book is short and easy to read, there is a great story that is told. I would definitely recommend it to young adult looking for a book about a “not so average” girl making her way through high school.  
Natalie Huttner, class of 2021

Steinbeck, John  
This is a fantastic and heartbreaking novel about two nomadic ranch hands living in California. the exact time period isn’t stated, but it takes place somewhere around the late 1800’s to early 1900. The two men, George and Lennie, have known each other for long before the book starts, and they have worked like a family, traveling from one place to another until they achieve their dream- an acre of land and a shack of their own to call home. However, there is one setback to this fantastic plan- Lennie. He has a mental disease that only enables him to act and talk like a small child. However, his body is hugely strong, and he doesn’t know his own strength. Steinbeck renders both characters like a master, bonding us with them strongly and deeply in his book’s short 100 page span. George is the controller, exasperated yet compassionate, his heart too big to let his disabled companion, Lennie, go. The masterpiece culminates in one of the saddest and best-written works of literature you will ever be privileged enough to read.  
Will Halverson, class of 2020

Stockett, Kathryn  
The Help by Kathryn Stockett is an inspirational book for any type of audience. The book takes place during the civil rights era in Jackson, Mississippi. It is written from the perspective of three main people: Eugenia Phelan, Minny Jackson, an Aibileen Clark. The book is about the tough times that African-American maids go through and their point of view on the white families that they work for. No part of this novel was boring or tiring because of the interesting content and stories. This was a very unique book that I enjoyed very much and would recommend to anyone.
Terrill, Cristin  
*All Our Yesterdays*  
*All Our Yesterdays* by Cristin Terrill is a very good book. The plot is very subtle and thought provoking with realistic and flawed characters. After realizing that the human race is on the brink of extinction, Em is given the task to save the world. With the help of her friend Finn, Em must go back and kill her childhood friend, who happens to be the inventor of the time machine. *All Our Yesterdays* is a thrilling, action packed Sci-Fi adventure. Many ethical dilemmas are presented throughout the book, leaving the answers to the reader. This book is recommended because of the complex and twisted plot as well as the easy to relate to characters and the dilemmas that are presented.

Will Gonnella, class of 2020

Thomas, Leah  
*Because You’ll Never Meet Me*  
*Because You’ll Never Meet Me*, by Leah Thomas is the story of an impossible and deadly friendship. Through a series of letter, Ollie and Moritz, communicate because they can never meet in real life, for they could kill each other. Ollie, with a strange allergy to electricity, and Moritz, with an electric pacemaker, can never meet in person, but writing to each other is the next best thing. The two boys help each other with problems only they could understand, and as their friendship grows, so does their desire to meet in person. I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a unique, and engaging story. This book has the perfect balance of humor and reality and it was impossible to put down.

Olivia Choi, class of 2020

Vonnegut, Kurt  
*Slaughterhouse-Five*  
Kurt Vonnegut explores the wonders of time travel, the reality of war, and the nature of humanity itself through the eyes of Billy Pilgrim in his black comedy, *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Billy has become “unstuck in time” as he travels uncontrollably throughout moments of his life, in no set order. Born in 1922, he then is deployed to Europe where he is captured by the Germans, beginning his travels through time with his meeting with the Tralfamadorians. He visits his birth, his death, and everywhere in between, discovering the nature of human beings. With the purpose of no major climax, Vonnegut presents a thought provoking, anti-war book, suited for all readers looking for a purpose in life.

Matthew Gin, class of 2020

Walls, Jeannette  
*The Glass Castle*  
Jeannette Walls tells her story of living with her family, running from the FBI (bill collectors), and always moving from town to town in the memoir *The Glass Castle*. From catching fire while cooking hot dogs to almost falling out of the back of a U-haul, the insane things that she experienced throughout her childhood will make your jaw drop. Although her family was living in poverty, she and her three siblings always seemed to make the most out of their life. Her father would
play with Jeannette and use his wild imagination, but when he did get drunk, he would lie and demolish the family. Her life story will make you cry, laugh, smile, and empathize for her. This book was a fantastic read.

Campbell Patteson, class of 2020

Walton, K.M.  
_I would recommend reading the novel Empty to anyone who is ready to shed some tears and have tissues located near by. Join Dell on her journey through bullying and depression. Although sad, the novel is excellent at portraying the life of a depressed person. Time after time Dell is let down by the people closest to her and eventually she decides its enough. The thought of putting an end to one’s life is hard to comprehend but Empty did the perfect job of allowing the reader to see the world through a different lens. If you’re ready for the tears and have the tissues on sight this is definitely the novel for you._

Caley Capoot, class of 2020

Weir, Andy  
_The Martian_

This fast-paced sci-fi thriller entertains the reader and constantly keeps you on the edge of your seat with heart pounding excitement. Weir finds the perfect balance between reality and fiction, providing complicated descriptions of futuristic technology mixed in with moments of hope, despair, and his main character’s constant graveyard humor. Primarily following stranded astronaut Mark Watney’s lonely journey across Mars, Weir expertly introduces new characters to the plot, creating a masterpiece of fiction. Constantly suspenseful, The Martian is bound to entertain readers both young and old.

Will Halverson, class of 2020

Weir, Andy  
_The Martian_

The novel The Martian by Andy Weir is a fantastic space thriller. If you’re looking for an easy and interesting read, this book is for you. The book is about one’s man’s struggle to survive on a planet unlike his own. The book shows an individual’s innovation and survival skills. It demonstrates the lengths that people will go to in order to save a life. How much is too much? The novel shows that tragedy can bring people and countries together. Mark Watney is able to stay positive, and laugh about his hardships. This book is a very unique science fiction novel unlike any other.

Charlotte Mauger, class of 2020

Whillock-Moore, Sonia  
_Children’s Book of Art_

This book, not only shows great works of art, but embarks on the question, “What is art?” It explains pieces and goes back all the way to the origin of art, drawn on caves. This book takes you on a journey through art history, bringing you from hieroglyphs, to Raphael, to van Gogh, to Picasso, all the way to art being made today. This book gives you a detailed history on famous paintings,
and sculptures, bringing the works of art to life. Leonardo da Vinci defines art/painting as, “painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt…” Reading this book, it is interesting to look at the beautiful works, but also reading history on the pieces, artists, and the evolution of art. I would recommend this book to any young people who love and appreciate art, or want to learn more about art.

Campbell Patteson, class of 2020

Wouk, Herman

The Winds of War

This book is the first in an epic saga of World War II. There have been many books written about the war before, but none come close to this novel, the ambitious tale of a family caught up by the war and swept all over the world. Each has his or her own adventure story-- traveling to Italy before war breaks out or else being recruited into the United States embassy in Nazi Germany. The story is more than that, however-- it’s the heartwarming novel about the power of family through the most insane situations. If you like up close and personal stories from history, this is the book for you.

Will Halverson, class of 2020

Wurtele, Margaret

The Golden Hour

This is a stunning book about a young curious girl and a compelling love story during World War 2. A young Italian woman named Giovanna comes from a strong Nazi family. When the war begins, Giovanna’s brother leaves the household and chooses to fight against the Nazis. Further along in the book, Giovanna starts gathering food and helping her brother and his unit. Giovanna starts to get more and more involved, and one day when delivering food she meets a young Jewish boy who injured himself fighting with her brother. Giovanna is asked to heal and hide this young man named Mario. Secretly, while helping Mario, Giovanna falls in love and so does Mario. Once the war has ended, Giovanna finds her brother has died in a mine explosion. Mario in a way helps the family move forward, and he grows close with Giovanna’s father and mother. Slowly Giovanna’s family accepts Mario and blesses the marriage. This book is an astonishing book of love and bravery and a great read for young teens.

Bailey Parkhouse, class of 2020

Yancey, Rick

The 5th Wave

Though intense and gory, this incredibly thought-provoking book somehow managed to be an edge-of-your-seat post apocalyptic thriller that questions what makes us truly human. Rick Yancey skillfully weaves together the story of a ragtag band of teenagers forced through harrowing times into representing humanity’s last hope against omnipresent aliens. The problem? These ruthless extra terrestrials have already eliminated 98% of the world’s population and seem bent on tearing the survivors apart from the inside out. Although this book should be for advanced readers only, this chronicle of loyalty, love, and what it truly means to be human is an infinitesimally complex yet extremely unique-- even life-changing-- read.

Jeremy Gart, class of 2020
Yoon, Nicola  

*Everything Everything*

The book *Everything Everything* by Nicola Yoon is full of hope and keeps the reader on their toes throughout the entirety of the book. It is a story told from the perspective of a girl named Madeline Whittier who is allergic to well, everything and she has a very strong conflict with herself about this. The book is an amazing tale about romance and betrayal that is intended to be read by teenagers, but can also be read by any adults looking for an intriguing story. The vocabulary and writing in *Everything Everything* is not challenging necessarily, but it does not take away from the overall quality of the book itself. I loved reading this book because it made me very grateful to have all of the freedom that I have to run and play outside and I realized to never take that for granted. This is a book that I would recommend to everyone who is thirteen years or older, just because it has some mature scenes, who wants a book that they will not be able to put down.

*Courtney Hancock, class of 2020*

Young, Suzanne  

*The Program*

Anyone looking for a heartbreaking, intense, romantic novel should definitely read *The Program*. Imagine living in a world where depression is breaking out everywhere. A world where suicide epidemics are not uncommon. In attempts to save lives “the program” was made. A hospital where patients go to get their memory erased. They don’t remember what hurt them but they also don’t remember the happiness or people in their lives. This is exactly the world Sloane Phillips lives in. When the love of her life’s best friend kills himself and he catches the deadly disease, James is taken to the “the program.” Join Sloane on her journey to save both James and herself. Will they defy the impossible and make it through “the program” or will they just become another blank person? This realistic fiction novel will have you trembling with chills and unable to sleep.

*Caley Capoot, class of 2020*

Zinn, Howard  

*A Young People’s History of the United States*

An adaptation from *A People’s Guide to History*, this history book shows history through a different lense. It shows history from the viewpoint of young people such as teenagers. The book gives a perspective on the events ranging from the Civil Rights era to the British colonies from different angles. Not only is the book educating, but also, because of the different viewpoints, its keeps the reader wanting to read more and more. This book is recommended for anyone who loves history and learning about the past, but also a bit of a story with it too.

*Campbell Patteson, class of 2020*
The Reader’s Bill of Rights

The right to not read
The right to skip pages
The right to not finish
The right to reread
The right to read anything
The right to escapism
The right to read anywhere
The right to browse
The right to read out loud
The right to not defend your tastes

— Daniel Pennac