



What We're Reading

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Where will books *take* you?



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Thank you to the students, faculty, and staff of Kent Denver School for taking the time to submit the thoughtful recommendations you will find in this guide. Use it to look for adventure, to challenge your mind, to go on a journey. Come get lost in a book.

*"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*

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.*

Posted by John David Anderson

Please read *Posted* during the month of August or review it before school starts, as we will be working with this text extensively over the first few weeks of school. Once you have read the book, please complete the following:

Using five different sheets of blank 8½" x 11" computer paper, please create an original picture (ie: do not just find a picture from the internet) of an object that you associate with each of the following characters:

1. Frost
2. Wolf
3. Bench
4. DeeDee
5. Rose

You should have five sheets of paper when you come to school in the first week.

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

One Thousand and One Arabian Nights by Geraldine McCaughrean

(Oxford edition) King Shahryar is enthralled 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/2018-best-best>

Or consider these books enjoyed by sixth-grade teachers:

Goldblatt, Mark

Twerp

In Queens, New York, in 1969, twelve-year-old Julian Twerski writes a journal for his English teacher in which he explores his friendships and how they are affected by girls, a new student who may be as fast as Julian, and especially an incident of bullying.

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.

Palacio, R.J.

Wonder

Auggie Pullman was born with severe facial deformities—no outer ears, eyes in the wrong place, his skin “melted”—and he’s learned to steel himself against the horrified reactions he produces in strangers. Now, after years of homeschooling, his parents have enrolled him in fifth grade. In short chapters told from various first-person perspectives, debut author Palacio sketches his challenging but triumphant year.

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.

Pennypacker, Sara***Pax***

Peter and his pet fox Pax are inseparable. After his father forces him to release Pax back into the wild, Peter strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty and grief, to be reunited with his best friend.

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.

Serrailier, 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.

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 Wilhelm 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

Alvarez, Julia

Morpurgo, Michael

Twain, Mark

Woodsen, Jacqueline

Watership Down

Before We Were Free

The Elephant in the Garden

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Brown Girl Dreaming

Book 3: Your choice

A great place to find exemplary books:

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/2018-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.*

Refugee by Alan Gratz

Josef is a Jewish boy fleeing Nazi Germany aboard a large ocean liner. Isabel is a young Cuban girl attempting to escape the rule of Fidel Castro. Mahmoud is a young boy from Syria traveling to a new country away from the terrors of war. This story follows three protagonists as they endure harrowing events, heart-breaking moments, and constant unknowns along their journeys to find refuge and hope. This book will take you on an emotional rollercoaster that can be quite intense at times, but the surprise ending is well worth the ride.

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 W/WII.

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:**

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/2018-best-best>

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

Adams, Douglas

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, which I read last summer for my summer reading, is a sci-fi comedy book that is an easy read and provides witty comedy which makes it hard to put down. It brings you into a whole new world and can be a bit confusing, but that is half of the book's charm. The jokes in this book, while dumb at times, are downright hilarious and for the most part smart, witty humor. The book takes you into a future where the earth has been told about its demolition and the protagonist, Arthur Dent, has to escape the planet and has many adventures along the way and has to figure out the universe along with the reader. So if you like space and experiencing the universe while laughing and being a little bit confused, then this is the book for you.

—Nickel Drexler-Bruce, Class of 2022

Alender, Katie

Famous Last Words

Famous Last Words, by Katie Alender is a very creepastic novel. Willa has just moved to Los Angeles, and weird things have been happening to her since she and her family moved in. There have been murders happening left and right, and Willa is freaking out. It seems she is seeing things like a dead body in her swimming pool, messages on her walls, a reflection that is not her own. Meanwhile, a killer is stalking Los Angeles - a killer who reenacts famous movie murder scenes. *Famous Last Words* is my favorite book ever. I have read it multiple times and am planning on reading it again soon! There is so much mystery and thrill, you are always on your toes wondering what will happen next.

—Calyx Klein, Class of 2023

Alexander, Kwame

The Crossover

The Crossover was a change in style for me because it is written in poetry. I liked how it is about basketball, but at first it was very confusing to understand what was happening. It was difficult to adjust to the style but when I did, I enjoyed reading the book. I would recommend this book to anyone that likes basketball, family stories, or is looking for a change in style.

—Amanda Licht, Class of 2022

Alexander, Kwame

The Crossover

The Crossover was written by New York Times Best Selling Books author, Kwame Alexander. The book follows two brothers who are star middle school basketball players who are trying to solve the mystery

of their father's retirement from the NBA. They use the passion of basketball to get through the adversities they face, such as jealousy, frustration and integrity. This book is a pretty easy read, and good for those who like sports and competition. I recommend this book, because it is a fun book with a good plot line and a poetic style.

—Dalar Engdashet, Class of 2022

Applegate, Katherine

The One and Only Ivan

The amazing true story about a gorilla living in a mall creating art to show the public is brought back to life in *The One and Only Ivan*. Katherine Applegate writes about Ivan, an easygoing gorilla, and Ruby, a confident baby elephant. Ivan uses art to escape from the unfortunate situation that he is currently in. Ruby comes into Ivan's life when she is taken away from her family. She makes Ivan see their home, and his art, in a whole new perspective. These two have to navigate their way through difficult conditions keeping in mind that someday, they will find a way to get back to their real home, the jungle. This story reminds the reader about the importance of friendship, hope, and the need for connection and purpose. Ivan reminds us to find the art and beauty in everything, and to cherish it. This book is heartwarming, inspiring, adventurous and life changing.

—Isa Gutrich, Class of 2022

Avi

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi is a really good fast book to read on your free time. I love this book, and I would really recommend it. This historical fiction novel is about Charlotte Doyle who is put on a ship back to her family. She is put through many challenges while at sea. She must face the captain, the crew, and the hurricane forming as the book progresses. Charlotte goes through hardships and tries to make it home safely. This book is action packed and leaves you on the edge of your seat. I highly recommend this book to someone who loves reading and loves waiting to see what's going to come next.

—Davis Patteson, Class of 2023

Aveyard, Victoria

Red Queen

In the novel *Red Queen* a young girl goes on a thrilling adventure. This is a world class system much different from ours and divided by blood—red or silver. Mare Barrow, a seventeen-year-old Red girl discovers she possesses a deadly power of her own. She is entered into a whole new world, where she doesn't believe she belongs. In this spellbinding book you will see how trust can break so easily. It is a story of love and death. I would recommend this book for any thrill seeker, mystery lover, and those who enjoy a romance novel.

—Avery Martin, Class of 2023

Backman, Fredrik***A Man Called Ove***

A Man Called Ove is a heartwarming novel following the life of Ove, the cantankerous man next door. Ove's daily tasks consist of enforcing the block association rules that only he cares about actually following, and visiting his late wife's grave. Ove's strict ideas on life and select ideas about people has landed him few friends. Ove has abandoned the idea that life is exceptional as he has nobody and nothing left in the world. When a new young couple to the neighborhood runs over his mailbox with their trailer, a strange friendship is born. If you want a book where you will laugh, cry, and never want to put it down *A Man Called Ove* is the book for you.

—Lilly D'Hondt, Class of 2023

Barnes, Jennifer***The Naturals***

The book *The Naturals* is a fantastic mystery thriller. It follows a natural profiler as she is discovered for her talent by the FBI and then must get inside the head of a psychotic serial killer. Not only is the story line captivating, the attention to detail and writing style is mesmerizing as well. This book (and series) is perfect for anyone who loves suspense, intense plot twists, and big reveals.

—Morrie Baumgarten, Class of 2022

Bradley, Kimberly B.***The War that Saved my Life***

The War that Saved my Life, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley is a heart wrenching novel, and a complete page turner. A young 10 year old girl, Ada is stuck in a one room apartment in London because of her crippled clubbed foot. Her mother is ashamed of her and never want Ada to leave the house. As world war II is approaching Ada's younger brother Jamie is shipped out of London. Ada doesn't waste a minute and sneaks to join him. This brings new adventures to Ada as she truly didn't realize how much of life she hadn't seen. She builds everlasting bonds with animals and humans, strives for greatness, and truly becomes herself. Ada doesn't realize that this war that killed millions, actually saved her life in so many ways. Throughout this book Jamie and Ada gain new perspective on identity and family, and gain a close relationship with their current foster parent, Susan. But in the end will this be enough to save Jamie and Ada from returning to an abusive mother?

—Janie Landgraff, Class of 2023

Bradley, Kimberly B.***The War that Saved my Life***

The War that Saved my Life, written by Kimberly B. Bradley, is an inspiring book about a girl who strives for a goal and gets there. Ada Smith has always been a cripple in her one room flat. Her dream has always been to find an opportunity to get away from her mom since she is a cruel monster who hates poor Ada. The day comes where Ada is given the chance to be free, and with the help of Susan who becomes her

guardian for the time, Ada learns how to live a normal life. This book is great for anyone who wants an easy read with a little more length. It has action, humor and love all packed in to make an incredible story.

—Sara Chonchol, Class of 2024

Bradley, Kimberly B.

The War that Saved my Life

In *The War That Saved My Life*, by Kimberly B. Bradley, Ada, an eleven year old girl with a clubfoot, has never seen the sun. To make things worse, her mom treats her very poorly, providing her little food and giving her no freedom. All she wants is to be normal, and she gets that chance when WWII begins. Along with several other children, Ada is evacuated to the English coast from London and her new temporary guardian is all she ever hoped for. She finds herself at home with her new family, living a life of happiness and acceptance. This book is an amazing historical fiction story of resilience and perseverance. I personally like WWII books and this one brought the war to life through a child's eye perfectly.

—Owen Mortell, Class of 2024

Braffet, Kelly

Last Seen Leaving

Last Seen Leaving, by Kelly Braffet, is a great book full of mysterious characters. When a young girl goes missing, her boyfriend and others will do whatever it takes to find her. As the plot unfolds, the cops interrogate the girl's boyfriend, asking questions that he can't answer, and the others keep telling stories that just don't add up. This book is guaranteed to hook you on the first line and is great for teen readers looking for an easy read. I would definitely recommend the book, *Last Seen Leaving*.

—Lauren Pitstick, Class of 2024

Brown, Daniel

The Boys in the Boat

This is a story of adventure and suspense, yet it still has a nice ending that makes you feel good. The story starts by following Joe Rantz through his childhood until he gets to Washington University where he joins the crew team. From then on in the book goes through the crew team's life in every valley and peak. In the end of the story, the crew team goes to the 1936 Germany olympics, to face their biggest challenge yet. I recommend this book to a person who likes to read about someone who works hard and finally gets where they want to go.

—Charlie Halverson, Class of 2022

Brown, Daniel

The Boys in The Boat

The Boys In The Boat by Daniel James Brown is based off the true story of the American rowing team that fights to be chosen and win the 1936 Olympic Games. I had picked this book up from the library, and since

I'm not usually a fan of historical books, I was a little dubious. However, when I began to read it, I was pleasantly surprised by how entertained I was. The story follows Joe Rantz a teen who's been essentially abandoned by his family and left to find his own way in life. Part of why I like this book is how deeply I connected with Joe on an emotional level, and how his victories and defeats became mine too. Mr. Brown also does a good job of offering a window back in time and it really makes you consider how lucky we are today. I definitely recommend this novel. It's entertaining and an easy read which is totally enjoyable.

—Eli Lewis, Class of 2023

Bruchac, Joseph

March Toward the Thunder

As an avid reader, I can definitively say that this is one of the more fascinating historical fiction novels I have read. Set in 1864, it follows the life of an Abenaki Indian named Ned Begay who is fighting in the ongoing Civil War. He initially joined because of an ongoing family financial crisis. He stayed because of the genuine human connections he forged. One of the reasons I really liked this novel was because it directly addressed the harmful cultural and societal prejudices that can not only divide individuals, but entire nations. I would highly recommend this novel to anyone interested in war history, the history of minority people, or just a good adventure.

—Evan Stubbs, Class of 2022

Buxbaum, Julie

What to Say Next

What To Say Next by Julie Buxbaum is a teen realistic fiction novel told from the alternating views of two teens, Kit Lowell and David Drucker. After Kit's dad dies in a car crash, she can't face the normal and seemingly insignificant world of high school. In the midst of the tragedy, she turns to David, the genius and socially isolated misfit. An unlikely friendship blooms and together, they examine what happened the night of the crash as Kit learns to cope with her grief and David learns about what it means to be "normal"- even more, a friend. *What To Say Next* is a sweet story about high school, grief, love, family, and friendship. I really enjoyed it and I definitely recommend it to others.

—Lauren Kim, Class of 2022

Cameron, W. Bruce

A Dog's Purpose

A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron is a great fantasy book. This book was about how a dog has many lives and learns his life's purpose. Through all of his lives and adventures, each human who is his owner experiences love and companionship. The main life he lives is with a boy named Ethan. Even though they become separated for a good part of the book, they have a unbreakable bond that I love. I connected with this book because I have a unbreakable bond with my dog and believe

that pets can add to our lives in unanticipated and inexplicable ways. This book really drew me in just by its cover. It had a friendly looking dog on the cover and I knew I just had to read this book. I recommend this book for everyone looking to have a fun and entertaining read!

—**Elise Nelson, Class of 2023**

Card, Orson

Ender's Game

This book is for those looking for an intriguing, adventurous story filled with oddities. Ender is hardly the age of six when he is sent to space in hopes of learning to command an army and becoming the savior the Earth so desperately needs. Follow Ender through his trials and marvel at his quick-witted and dark humor between the pages of this book. Full of fast-paced battles and sharp intellect, this is a book you won't soon forget.

—**Lauren Cussler, Class of 2022**

Carter, Ally

All Fall Down

This book is about a girl named Grace Blakely who lives with her grandpa, a U.S. representative in a city of great diplomatic importance. She knows that someone killed her mother, but no one will believe her except for Noah, who is Grace's best friend. She moves to a completely new country in the heart of the city her mother grew up in where she can finally find answers. While she is in the city, she starts to see the man who killed her mother. I loved this book because I really like the suspense in it. I think everyone would enjoy this book if they are fans of mysteries and young adult fiction.

—**Nicole Davari, Class of 2022**

Carter, Ally

All Fall Down

All Fall Down by Ally Carter is one of the best young adult fiction books that I have read. Its mysterious and colorful cover drew me in and already made the book look fascinating. The book follows four complex and adventurous characters whose mission is to uncover the person that is responsible for a tragic death. It will keep you on your toes throughout the entire novel. The writing is so rich and well-structured, that I read page after page with no effort. I would definitely call the book a page turner! If you like books that are difficult to put down and keep you on the edge of your seat, I highly recommend this book for you.

—**Sawyer Beardsley, Class of 2023**

Cass, Keira

The Selection

The Selection Series by Kiera Cass is a truly incredible book that left me on the edge of my seat, hanging on to the author's every word. The characters are deep and funny, full of secrets and adventure. I would recommend this book series for 5th graders and up. It's a wonderful

series and it's one of my all time favorites.

—Grace Garfoot, Class of 2023

Cass, Kiera

The Selection

The Selection is a great futuristic romance book. It was a real page turner and I've read the whole series four times by now! The novel takes place after the fourth world war in a place called Illea which was once the USA. The main character is named America, and the prince has to hold a selection where he must pick who will be the new princess and ultimately, who will be crowned his queen. America is chosen and must compete against thirty-five other girls to win his heart. With the tension between the monarchy and Northern and Southern rebels escalating, something is bound to go wrong. Read *The Selection* Series to find out what happens over the course of the novel to the characters in this Bachelor-like story!

—Ella Kitt, Class of 2023

Chainani, Soman

The School For Good and Evil

The School for Good and Evil by Soman Chainani is an incredible fantasy touched with romance, magic, humor, and riddles. This book has stood out from the rest with a complex plot and thoroughly developed characters. This book follows the two main characters, Sophie and Agatha, who are on a desperate mission to find their way back to each other after finding that living in a fantasy is harder than it looks. Chainani's characters all have interesting pasts that make them easy to relate and the slow-paced beginning draws the reader's into the ultimate climax of the book. This book truly takes a creative spin on the average fairy-tale and will leave readers on the edge of their seat begging to read more. I highly recommend it to anyone looking for a book they could read for hours on end.

—Chloe Deters, Class of 2023

Cline, Ernest

Armada

This is a fantastic book for people that love action, adventure, science fiction, and a little comedy. The action-packed story, *Armada* by Ernest Cline is set during the end of the world when a much more advanced alien species threatens earth. Our main character, Zack Lightman, whose dad died when he was young and who spends his days playing video games, is drafted along with thousands of other gamers to become drone pilots and defend earth. I would recommend this book to anyone that desires an amazing science fiction book.

—Carson Lloyd, Class of 2022

Cline, Ernest

Ready Player One

This is a must read book for those who are into technology, sci-fi, and

mystery. The teen goes on adventures with his virtual friends to find billions of dollars that are hidden throughout the game. He also battles outside threats from rival competitors. The book also puts him in trouble with a girl that he obsesses about in the game. All in all the book is a read for the reader that likes to get their hands dirty with mystery and crime, within sci-fi theme.

—**Duke Benson, Class of 2022**

Cline, Ernest

Ready Player One

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline is an interesting sci-fi which follows the life of Wade Watts, a contestant in the world wide egg hunt for a multi billionaires leftover money. His friends and Wade fight to keep the "Oasis", a virtual reality platform, away from corporation who would misuse it. And yet, the book is more than just another sci-fi in fact it is centered around the possible consequences of virtual reality. I would recommend the book to anybody but, especially if you enjoy a fun immersing world with a narrative that brings about thought process and conversation.

—**Adam Ryan, Class of 2022**

Cline, Ernest

Ready Player One

This book is an incredible read if you enjoy '80s "nerd" culture. Even if you do not, it has an exhilarating plot that follows the journey of Wade Watts, also known as Parzival. The year is 2040 when everyone uses The Oasis to escape the sad and awful reality of earth. With trillions of dollars on the line and control of the largest and wealthiest virtual reality game called The Oasis, Parzival must find an "easter egg" before anyone else to claim the prize. This is an amazing book, and if you pick it up, you will not be able to put it down.

—**Landon Ellis, Class of 2022**

Cline, Ernest

Ready Player One

Ready Player One was an action-packed thrill-ride that had you constantly guessing what was going to happen on the next page. The lead gamer in this story, Parzival, goes all around the magical world of the oasis and accomplishes tasks that are vital for him to win. This book is great for a reader who likes video games or just likes an action-packed thriller that you can't put down.

—**Trent Blair, Class of 2022**

Cline, Ernest

Ready Player One

Ready Player One takes place in a not so far dystopian America. The world has been drained of almost all natural resources and the Earth is now governed by one singular government. The only escape from harsh reality is the Oasis, a virtual universe where you can be anything

you want to be or couldn't be in this near-apocalyptic society. Wade Watts is just an average teenager until he finds a hidden treasure in the Oasis and is suddenly the most popular person on the planet, but no one knows who he actually is in real life. What follows is a harrowing adventure between Wade and his friends and the corrupt government that is trying to limit his power. This book is a perfect read for those who like action and 80's pop and video game references.

—Cooper Wifall, Class of 2022

Cline, Ernest

Ready Player One

I read the book *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline, a few months ago, however it still was one of the most standout books I've read this year. The plot line is easy to follow and the readers are surprised with many twists. One of the parts that makes the book so interesting is the duality between the virtual reality world and the real world. The idea of the in-game challenges makes the book very entertaining, and the competitor for the prize gives the book a more urgent sense. My favorite part of the book is the twist at the end where he has an extra life.

—Joe Gillett, Class of 2022

Cline, Ernest

Ready Player One

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline is one of the best fiction/action/adventure (with a hint of romance and mystery) books I have ever read. The title is unique as it draws any gamer in as most recognize the famous phrase. It is about a futuristic Earth where everywhere is overpopulated and there is almost nothing to do. Then, this video game designer named James Halliday created a virtual utopia called the Oasis. In the Oasis, nothing is limited and you can be anything or one and have virtually everything. There is a currency system in the game (coin) and you can earn coin by gambling, leveling up, killing other avatars, and many other ways. A unique thing about the Oasis is it has a one life per avatar meaning, if you die, you lose all your stuff and you have to start all over. The main story of *Ready Player One* is in the Oasis, Halliday created three keys that ultimately led to a final easter egg, which led to ownership, and in turn, full control of the Oasis and around 3 trillion dollars. The main character, Parzival, real name Wade Watts, is a gunter, which is a term used for people who hunt for the egg. When he finds the first key, an evil corporation called IOI comes after him. This is a big moment as nobody has made any luck finding anything for three years. Parzival, along with his love interest, Art3mis, and his other allies, Aech, Daito, and Shoto have to stop IOI and save the Oasis. Cline does a great job describing the details of the story, from dropping little easter eggs for current gamers, and explaining what is happening for people who have never held a controller, he is an amazing character creator who makes lovable, relatable characters. He could also be a puzzle creator

as the challenges to get to the keys are extremely challenging and intriguing. I highly recommend for people who are into action and pop culture and even if you don't know anything about it. He does a great job describing the significance so anybody can read it without getting lost. He keeps the book flowing and interesting, even when there are some not so exciting moments happening, and he does a great job describing the action sequences and the ways to unlock the keys, so it is a very intriguing book. I recommend reading this if you want a book you can't put down.

—Aidan Zuckert, Class of 2023

Cline, Ernest

Ready Player One

This novel is one that was made into an action-filled movie that many have seen last month in March in 2018. What many of you didn't know is how much the movie changed the book. The book is a science fiction action adventure book where the protagonist Wade puzzles that the protagonist Wade devotes his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines. Wade then found out what the first riddle means and then everything changed in his world. Wade joins with other that he counts as his "friends" in this virtual world. He has to face the music when he kicks the game up a notch. Wade and his friends experience tough times in and out of the virtual world. I recommend both the book and the movie if you like adventure and action.

—Kyle Kim, Class of 2023

Coffey, Wayne

The Boys Of Winter

In *The Boys Of Winter* the U.S.A hockey team in 1980 this team strived to be the best. This book is about a hockey team made up of great hockey players that have played college hockey, and higher levels all around America. This book explains the lives of the men who played on this olympic hockey team and strove to make themselves and their teammates some of the best hockey players who have ever played the game. "You move forward and you live your life and try to be a better person every day than you were the day before. You take each day as a new journey, even as you are grateful for the ones you have already had". These are very inspirational words from Jimmy Craig (the goaltender for the U.S olympic team). This book truly shows how these men fight hard to win gold which was thought impossible by the U.S hockey team.

—Aiden Pearman, Class of 2023

Collins, Suzanne

The Hunger Games

The Hunger Games is a great series for anyone who loves an exciting adventure that's full of many twists and turns. Situated in a futuristic North America now ruled by the Capitol of Panem, this book follows

the story of Katniss Everdeen, a teenage girl, and her action-packed journey through The Hunger Games. What begins as a desperate attempt at survival in the games may culminate with the overthrow of the government and the rise of a new democracy. This series is definitely a page-turner, its suspense and intrigue keeping me on my toes the whole time.

—Gavin Dhanda, Class of 2022

Collins, Suzanne

The Hunger Games

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins is one of the best books there is. While a lot of dystopian future books have the same idea or story behind it, this trilogy went off its own idea and had many unique and interesting attributes. The characters have complicated and fantastic backstories, and the plot moves along smoothly across the book and fits in with the entire idea of the book as well. The book has a little bit of everything, suiting to match everyone's interests; heartbreak, comedy, thrills, sci-fi, and just a little bit of romance (not enough to make it sappy, of course). This book is truly one of the greatest books, and I would highly recommend it to anyone who is willing to read it.

—Eliot Reid-Kempf, Class of 2023

Collins, Suzanne

Catching Fire

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins is a great read. It is a great Sci-Fi book that takes place in a dystopian future. The Districts, very poor places, must choose two fighters to fight to the death against other fighters that other districts have chosen. As you follow along with the story of Katniss Everdeen, it will keep you on the edge of your seat. The plot is extremely intense and beautifully described by the author. The book always had me wanting to read more and the ending is the best part. Overall, this book is iconic, intense, and has an amazing plot and I would definitely recommend reading it. To understand it and like it better, I would definitely read the first book, *The Hunger Games*.

—Nicholas Stromberg, Class of 2023

Darer Littman, Sarah

In Case You Missed It

In Case You Missed It by Sarah Darer Littman is a short fiction book filled with friends, lies, and worst of all, secrets. Secrets that soon go viral. Sammy Wallach already has the end of the junior year all planned out. She's getting her crush to ask her out to prom. She's going to ace all her test. She thinks that she has things covered. Then one day, hacktivists manage to steal everything in her family's private cloud. Everything from emails, to photos, to even her journal. Everything is a disaster, and the more she tries to fix things, the worse things get. *In Case You Missed It* is a riveting story about how a teen tries to keep her life together while everything seems to be falling apart.

—Vanessa Chavez, Class of 2023

Dashner, James

The Maze Runner

The Maze Runner by James Dashner is an amazing book that is action packed and full of plot twists. The book is about a group of teenage boys, the Gladers, that are trapped in a Glade surrounded by a maze and they have to find their way out before they die. The Gladers start to worry when weird things start to happen around The Glade. For example, the box sends a girl up to The Glade and the box also stops sending supplies. Also, the walls of the Glade stop closing and the sun disappears. The Gladers start to come up with a plan to escape. Then they frantically search the maze for a way out. This book will keep you on the edge of your seat and make you wonder who will make it out of the maze alive. I highly recommend this book if you want a story that is action-packed and exciting. You won't want to put this book down.

—Maya Samuels, Class of 2023

Dean-Myers, Walter

Fallen Angels

This is a realistic novel about a boy from Harlem, New York who just graduated high school and cannot afford to go to college. He decides to enlist himself to fight for the U.S. army in the Vietnam War. During the time he is in Vietnam he becomes close friends with his squadmates, like Peewee, Lobel, Brunner, and Lobel. I would recommend this book to anyone that likes to read historical fiction, or anyone that likes realistic war books.

—Max Zotti, Class of 2022

De La Cruz, Melissa

Something In Between

Something in Between by Melissa De La Cruz is a fiction book about a young girl who was so sure of what she was going to do with her life, where she wanted to go when she starts to feel as though she's breaking apart. Jasmine de Los Santos has been a perfect girl who has always done what is expected of her. She is a Filipino immigrant who has always worked hard to make those around her proud, and she is thrilled to have received a national scholar award invitation. That when everything goes downhill, and she finds out that her family's visas expired years ago and her entire family is illegal. Jasmine is angry and spins out of control, rebelling for the first time, when she meets the son of a congressman, Royce Blakely. Jasmine is lost, and no longer has any idea of what's going to happen. But with determination, support from her family and friends, and a little help from Royce along the way, Jasmine decides she's not giving up. This is a touching and unique story that will keep you intrigued.

—Vanessa Chavez, Class of 2023

Dessen, Sarah

Once and for All

Louna's summer job is to help her mother plan weddings, but at one of the many weddings Louna has to attend, she meets someone who changes her perspective on life and love. Unfortunately this joy is short lived and ends tragically, once again changing Louna's perspective on life and love. She begins to give up on finding her happy ending until someone unexpectedly enters her life. One and for All is a story of laughter, love, and regret that is sure to leave you with the happily-ever-after you have been searching for.

—Annie Oyler, Class of 2022

Draper, Sharon

Out of My Mind

In the novel *Out of My Mind*, the main character Melody is far from normal. She cannot walk or talk. However, she has a photographic memory that allows her to remember everything she's ever encountered. She is smarter than most adults, even the doctors that try to diagnose her. She is much smarter than all of her classmates that treat her unfairly. Melody refuses to let cerebral palsy not allow her to have a voice. I recommend this book to anyone who wants a brisk, yet detailed book. This story of a brilliant and brave spirit will forever change how you look at people with a disability.

—Katie Dahlen, Class of 2022

Draper, Sharon

Out of My Mind

In the novel *Out of My Mind*, Melody is far from normal. She cannot walk or talk. However, she has a photographic memory that allows her to remember everything she's ever encountered. She is smarter than most adults, even the doctors that try to diagnose her. She is also much smarter than all of her classmates that treat her unfairly. Melody is a fighter, and she refuses to let cerebral palsy not allow her to have a voice and be heard. This story of a brilliant and brave spirit will forever change how you look at people with a disability.

—Katie Dahlen, Class of 2022

Eggers, Dave

The Circle

The Circle is a novel about a dystopia. This book follows the main character Mae through her new job at a tech company, *The Circle*. At first, the job seems perfect, but quickly it tests her ethics and morals. The book is almost too easy to read and is very well written. It moves along quickly to keep the reader engaged, but it does not go too fast where it could be confusing. I recommend this book to the Kent Denver population, but not the movie.

—Isabel Haifleigh, Class of 2022

Ellenberg, Jordan

How Not to be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking

This is the book that will finally answer the most frequently asked question in school: how will I ever use this in life? *How Not to be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking* by Jordan Ellenberg goes into detail about all the math in our tiny pocket of the universe. The book is genuinely humorous and interesting, and this is because Jordan Ellenberg isn't your typical mathematician. So, if you are one for math, probability, and game theory, read this book and satisfy your curiosity.

—Aidan Ryan, Class of 2022

Feinstein, John

Where Nobody Knows Your Name: Life in the Minor Leagues of Baseball

This is the perfect book for anyone looking for a behind the scenes view into the minor leagues of baseball by reading about former players, managers, and umpires who were all trying to make it big. In this book you will hear examples of players' bumpy roads and sometimes only limited experience in the majors. For example, the book discusses Chris Schwinden, who was playing for the Buffalo Bisons, the AAA team for the New York Mets, and how he was called up to the majors while standing in line at McDonald's during a road trip. One moment he was a minor league ballplayer in McDonald's and the next he was on a plane to pitch against Colorado the next day. This book is perfect for someone who is interested in seeing what goes on in the minor leagues and is curious about the life of minor leaguers.

—Jacob Dietrich, Class of 2022

Flanagan, John

The Outcasts

The Outcasts is one of the best books I have ever read. The book cover has such a great design it catches the eye when displayed. Throughout the course of the book, readers follow the adventures of a group of outcast boys as they struggle to fit in with the rest of their country. The writing is intense, strong and full of creativity. Mr. Flanagan's characters are interesting and rich, each character has their strengths and weaknesses. These strengths and weaknesses makes the team whole and strong. All in all this book was a thrill to read and I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in action and conquest.

—Calvin Peterson, Class of 2023

Frank, Anne

Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl

This book provides the discovery of the horrors of the Holocaust from 1942 to 1944. Anne Frank, a thirteen-year old Jewish girl, and her family are forced to flee from the Nazis in Holland and go into hiding in Amsterdam. Anne writes in her diary daily throughout her journey, providing an inside perspective to this depressing time period. This truly was

a moving book that will not only make the reader laugh but bring tears to the reader's eyes.

—Lizzie Elliott, Class of 2022

Gaiman, Neil

Fortunately, the Milk

Fortunately, the Milk, by Neil Gaiman is a book written to remind you to appreciate what you have. It is a odd story about a dad who needs to get milk for his kids. He turns this boring walk to the corner store into a wild adventure around the world where the only reason he survived was because of his milk. The writing was fast and hard to follow but only made you want to learn more about it. I liked it because it had a unique moral and an interesting plot. I would recommend it because it was also fairly short making it a quick read for any occasion.

—Johnny Raheb, Class of 2023

Gaiman, Neil

M is For Magic

This collection of short stories has a wide variety of entertaining adventures for readers who get bored by longer plots. They include diverse characters chasing grimm, mysterious objectives with both good and bad intention. The stories also have unexpected and surprising endings that leave you thinking about what you just read, and because of that I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy this.

—Julian Dhanda, Class of 2022

Gibbs, Stuart

Space Case

Living on the moon is not as fun as it sounds. Twelve-year-old Dashiell Gibson is one of the first and only kids to live on the Moon Base, Alpha, and everything seems to be pretty ordinary. But, when Dr. Holtz is found dead on the moon's surface, Dashiell is convinced it is a murder. Throughout the book, Dashiell goes behind his parent's back, teaming up with other Moonies to discover who killed Dr. Holtz. The main question is...who killed Dr. Holtz? I enjoyed reading this book because of the suspense and the humor throughout the book.

—Elizabeth Barker, Class of 2024

Gibbs, Stuart

Spy School

Spy School is an interesting book about a nerd with no combat experience becoming a secret agent. His name is Ben Ripley and he has to learn how to merge in on all of his skills to find out who the snitch is before it is to late. The journey on how Ben grows as a person is a hilarious yet emotional one. I strongly recommend reading this book if you enjoy a mystery action book along with loads of humor.

—Sam McDonald, Class of 2022

Gidwitz, Adam

A Tale Dark and Grimm

In these books, Gidwitz recites fairy tales as they were told originally, but with a dark twist. However, Gidwitz does use his sense of humor to interject at certain points in the book. These tales are about stories that we have all heard, such as Hansel and Gretel, Jack and Jill, and even Cinderella. I would recommend this book to a person that likes humor but also is interested in darker stories.

—Jack Jacobsen, Class of 2022

Gidwitz, Adam

A Tale Dark and Grimm

This is a great book for anybody who likes fantasy, adventure, and a hint of gore. Gidwitz humors you with his commentary and ability to retell the original fairy tales in their truest. This book's characters were likeable and developed as people throughout the book. I recommend this book to anybody who wants to go on an adventure.

—Charlie Hewitt, Class of 2022

Gipson, Fred

Old Yeller

This is a must read classic book for those who love stories of compassion and adventure. This is the story of Old Yeller, an ugly stray dog that wiggles his way into the heart of his new owner, a boy named Travis. On a cattle ranch on the wild Texas Frontier, Old Yeller must prove his use and smarts. This beautiful, easy-to-read book portrays the amazing journey between man and man's best friend.

—Lizzie Elliott, Class of 2022

Goldblatt, Mark M.

Twerp

Twerp, written by Mark M. Goldblatt, is an excellent book about a boy named Julian. One day, Julian's teacher hands him a composition notebook and tells him to write about what he did to a classmate named Stanley Stimmel. He agrees to do the writing in order to get out of a Shakespeare writing assignment. Julian hates Shakespeare and is willing to do anything in order to get out of it, even if it means writing about what he did to Stanley Stimmel. Julian writes about the everyday activities of his life and has no problem with writing down his feelings, but he just can't bring himself to explain what happened to Stanley. I liked this book because it tells an important lesson at the end that speaks to being apologetic when you do mean things, and also to just not do anything mean in the first place.

—Talia Keshavarz, Class of 2024

Grabenstein, Chris

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library

If you like mystery then you will love to read *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*. Mr. Lemoncello's library has a fun plot line in the huge library, that billionaire, Luigi Lemoncello built. Luigi Lemoncello's plan

is to share his love for books and libraries with kids that live in Alexandria. It becomes the coolest library in the world where kids must solve clues and figure out every secret puzzle to find a hidden escape route. Read *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* to find out who is going to make it to the "finish line" and escape.

Ellie Seccombe, Class of 2023

Green, John

Turtles All the Way Down

Turtles All The Way Down is a great book for people that enjoy realistic fiction and mystery books. It is a story about a 16 year old girl named Aza Holmes, who lives in Indianapolis. One day at school, her friend Daisy Ramirez discovers that one of Aza's other friends, Davis Pickett, had her father go missing in the wake of fraud investigations. Together, Daisy and Aza go on a search for the billionaire Russell Pickett in order to get the \$100,000 reward. John Green is a great author that writes interesting and realistic books that many different people could relate to and enjoy.

—Kaia Kittleson, Class of 2022

Hannah, Kristin

The Nightingale

The Nightingale starts off right before World War II in France from the vantage point of two sisters named Isabelle and Vianne. Isabelle is characterized as determined but also as rash and immature. When the war begins, Isabelle quickly decides she wants to help the revolution. She starts off as messenger for the French Resistance, but transitions into helping Allied airmen escape Germany-raided France for Spain. Vianne is the opposite of Isabelle; she is older, so she makes wiser decisions that sometimes leaves her as an onlooker in the war. Throughout the book, Vianne develops a closer personality to Isabelle and helps to hide Jewish children when their parents are taken. *The Nightingale* is a riveting and inspiring book that teaches the reader about courage in the hardest of times.

—Annie Cutler, Class of 2022

Horowitz, Anthony

Alex Rider Ark Angel

Alex Rider Ark Angel by Anthony Horowitz is an exceptional action-packed story. This novel is a great read for anyone that enjoys action with a little bit of mystery. The main character Alex, is a fourteen year old boy who is trying to figure how his father was killed and meets many enemies that he will eventually have to take down. This is an amazing book because you never know what is going to happen because of the unexpected twists and turns that occur during the plot. The setting in this story takes place all around the world but is mainly in London. This is an incredible book and I highly recommend it to anyone that seeks an action-packed story.

—Aiden Shipman, Class of 2023

Horowitz, Anthony

Stormbreaker

Stormbreaker, by Anthony Horowitz, is a great book that will definitely keep you on the edge of your seat and even make you fall off it. I could not stop reading this book once I started. The protagonist, Alex Rider, a teenager, is recruited by MI6 after his uncle was killed. A rich man is donating a mega computer called the Stormbreaker to every school in Britain. He is assigned to go undercover in the man's company and has to get all the clues he can to figure out the sketchy thing about the Stormbreaker Mega-Computer.

—Oliver Thomas, Class of 2023

Isaacson, Walter

Steve Jobs

This is a great book for anyone who likes a good story that influenced their life daily. For me this explained a lot about the tech industry and especially Apple. It's not just a boring dry book. Steve Jobs is an eccentric and sometimes crazy guy and you never know what to expect. I would recommend this book to anyone who's ever owned an Apple products.

—Finn Cooper, Class of 2022

Jackson, Tiffany D.

Allegedly

Allegedly by Tiffany D. Jackson gives a view into our justice system through a fictional murder trial of 15 year old Mary. Through newspaper clippings, psychologist reports, and Mary's own flashbacks, the truth about the murder is revealed. A thrilling novel packed with suspense, empathy, and compassion, *Allegedly* reminds us that there is more to every situation than on the surface.

—Molly Walvoord, Class of 2022

King, Stephen

Pet Sematary

This is one of Stephen King's most chilling books yet, telling the story of a doctor and his family moving from the big city of Chicago to a small town in Main. Although it seems like this town is perfect in every way, there's a strange and evil magic somewhere hidden in it. In what Stephen King calls "the first book where I thought I finally went too far", mystery and horror will grip the reader and feel like they are part of this stunning adventure. I suggest this book to those to like terrifying, mysterious books and are not afraid to be scared a little.

—Miles Spahr, Class of 2022

Kinney, Jeff

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Cabin Fever

Diary of Wimpy Kid, Cabin Fever is a hilarious book about Greg Heffley, a child who hates his family and feels like the world is always against

him. Greg's feeling of the world coming down around him makes for some depressing but outrageously funny banter from Greg. The action centers around Greg's family being stuck in their house because of a blizzard causing funny and awkward moments. Overall this is a feel good book to make you laugh and be happy.

—**Nick Verneris, Class of 2022**

Korman, Gordon

Swindle

Swindle is a book for people who enjoy adventure, humor, and mystery. Griffin Bing and his friend, Ben Slovak, are paying homage to an old house in their neighborhood by sleeping in it before it gets bulldozed. When looking through the drawers in the house, Griffin can't believe his eyes. He has just found an old Babe Ruth baseball card! Thinking he just scored, he rushes to the card collector. Sadly, the card is a fake and worth \$10. He hands over the card to the owner, feeling disappointed. Did Griffin just get Swindled? Read this book to find out how Griffin and his friends plan to retrieve the "stolen" card and get revenge on their swindler.

—**Blake Wheeler, Class of 2022**

Lansing, Alfred

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing is a wonderful, historical adventure book that I enjoyed greatly. The retelling follows the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his crew on the *Endurance* on a failed expedition to the South Pole and their incredible journey back to civilization. The writing is descriptive and clear in the most elegant way possible; the smallest details do not go unnoticed. Alfred Lansing interviewed the crew of the *Endurance* long after their voyage and recalled their memories, and even read some of their personal journals from the expedition. That makes for a very accurate and interesting retelling of the tale, with thoughts from different perspectives collected and told by the omniscient narrator. Those details make the book even more enthralling and interesting to read, and put you in the shoes of the men on board and make you understand what the men went through. This book is great and oddly satisfying for anyone looking to pass the time by reading, as I was when I found this book.

—**Bailey Thomas, Class of 2023**

Law, Ingrid

Savvy

Savvy, by Ingrid Law, is a heartwarming book about the importance of family. Whenever one of the Beaumont children turn 13, they inherit a special power. For example, the protagonist's (Mib's) mother has no flaws and is perfect, and her brother can create natural disasters just by thinking. Mibs' entire family is special, and she is just waiting for the fateful day where she turns thirteen. Unfortunately, an unexpected car accident with her dad halt the celebrations, and she must figure out

how to use her powers on her own. Mib must learn how to use her power responsibly, while also fighting to save her father. I personally loved this book, and so will anyone else who enjoys a short, eventful read that keeps the reader on the edge of their seat!

—Azi Fanale, Class of 2024

Lee, Harper

To Kill A Mockingbird

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee is one of the most interesting stories I have read in a long time. Having heard about it a lot as being a good book, I decided to start reading it. From the moment I started reading, I was changed. It really helped me understand a whole era of American history through the eyes of two young children growing up in the southern town of Maycomb, Alabama during the 1930s. Throughout the course of the novel, the kids learn important moral lessons from their father and they learn about racism in their hometown. This book really showed me a new perspective on the world, and I highly recommend it to anyone who wants an interesting story and a well written book.

—August Penny, Class of 2023

Lee, Min Jin

Pachinko

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee is a historical saga about a Korean family that migrates to Japan. The book follows several family members throughout their lives and goes into depth about the events and circumstances that they face. The reader will come to love the incredible characters upon which the story is based. One main character is Sunja, an average looking, yet capable woman who faces and overcomes several difficulties throughout her life. *Pachinko* is for a slightly older age range than most young-adult novels, but it possesses a deep plot and incredible characters with whom the reader will surely fall in love. In addition, *Pachinko* has won several awards, including being named one of the 10 Best Books of 2017 by The New York Times. I would recommend this incredible novel to anyone who is looking for a deep and meaningful book that will be hard to put down.

—Isabella Del Castillo, Class of 2023

L'Engle, Madeleine

A Wrinkle in Time

This book is for someone who loves mystery and adventure. Meg, her little brother Charles Wallace, and their friend, Calvin, travel through time and space to find Meg and Charles Wallace's lost father. The team will stop at nothing till they find who they are looking for. I recommend this book for someone who likes happy endings and a bit of humor.

—Ainsley Nalen, Class of 2022

L'Engle, Madeleine***A Wrinkle in Time***

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle is a science fantasy novel that pulls the reader in with an interesting plot. Through the main characters' eyes, the reader is taken on a mission to save the younger brother and father from mythical creatures. The author's relaxed writing style helps the story flow nicely. I think this book is great for teens and makes the reader think about the importance of family. The characters also show growth throughout the story and feel like real people. I think the element of suspense the author uses keeps readers intrigued, thereby making a great story.

—Natalie Robertson, Class of 2022

Levithan, David***Every Day***

Every Day by David Levithan, now a major motion picture, is one of the best young adult books I have ever read. The book follows the life of A, a person who wakes up in a different body every day, occupying the life of a different person, living a different life every day. The book begins on Day 5994 of A's life, where she wakes up as a boy named Justin. A soon meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon, and spends the most amazing day with her, soon realizing that A has fallen in love with Rhiannon. As the story goes on, we see how hard it is for A and Rhiannon to figure everything out as they keep falling for each other more and more every day. This is a great book for anyone looking for a romance novel with an amazing story.

—Vanessa Chavez, Class of 2023

Lockhart, E.***We Were Liars***

The book *We Were Liars* is a great fictional young-adult novel. The book is told through the perspective of an 18 year old girl named Cadence Sinclair, who grew up in a very wealthy family. She would spend every summer on her family owned island with cousins and friends. Throughout the book you become familiar with Cadence and all of her thoughts as she navigates through life. While growing up in a wealthy family has benefits, it has also brought many problems to the Sinclair family, such as competition between family members, and lying and cheating in order to earn an inheritance. I recommend this book for teenagers who enjoy mystery and drama.

—Wynn Purchase, Class of 2022

London, Jack***The Sea Wolf***

The Sea Wolf by Jack London is a book I would recommend for readers that love adventure and classic literature. You follow Humphrey Van Weyden on his unexpected journey across the ocean on a seal hunting schooner. The crew is lively and the captain Wolf Larsen has a bold personality covering up his intelligent and philosophical side. Jack London

dives into the personality of each character through language and their dialogue. The book is based in the theme of survival. Humphrey must learn to live on the boat and eventually escape it when he finds his true love, Maud Brewster.

—Peter Mcdermott, Class of 2022

Lore, Pittacus

I am Number Four

I Am Number Four by Pittacus Lore is a fast paced, action adventure sci-fi that will keep you on the edge of your seat throughout the whole novel. *I Am Number Four* and the rest of the series is based around the life of the protagonist, John Smith (Number Four). When John's home planet Lorien is destroyed by Mogadorians, John and nine other infants and their guardians escape on a ship to earth. As soon as the children arrive, they are located a place to live. John and the other eight are assigned numbers (1-9), The Mogadorians are only able to kill the numbers in their order. When number three is killed, John becomes the next in line which provokes him to start trying to find the other numbers as they are more powerful together. Throughout the series, we get to know more about the numbers and their life before earth. Later in the series, the numbers start to discover new legacies which assist them in further battles against the Mogadorians. This book is so hard to put down, and you will fall in love with every character and their personalities. I 10/10. I recommend this book to any futuristic/sci-fi lover.

—Jemima Charlton, Class of 2023

Lu, Marie

Legend

Legend is an excellent book for those who like action and romance. Taking place in the western part of the United States, the book tells the story of two individuals, Day and June. Written from their perspectives, the reader gets to experience two different lifestyles - one in the slum and one in an elite family. When a family member gets mysteriously murdered, it is June's job to find their killer and avenge them. Day, on the other hand, is the suspect. He fights for survival while June is on the hunt for him. Under unexpected circumstances, they become allies and eventually fall in love. I think *Legend* demonstrates a perfect balance between action and heartfelt moments.

—Ashley Wang, Class of 2022

Lu, Marie

Warcross

This book is for people who want a fun and fast-paced way to explore and experience a world where people live much of their lives in virtual reality. *Warcross* is set in a futuristic world where Hideo Tanaka has invented VR that connects to your brain to develop an ever-immersive experience for the player. The VR has one main game, *Warcross*, a worldwide tournament to find out which teams can emerge on top. The

witty Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, but over time learns and changes from a hard, cautious person to someone built up by teamwork. I flew through this book and recommend it to anyone who loves a fun read.

—Chloe Malley, Class of 2022

Lubar, David

Hidden Talents

Hidden Talents is a book for people who enjoy humor, mystery and suspense. Martin Anderson has been kicked out of every school he has ever been to, which means there is only one more option: Edgeview Academy. Edgeview is an alternative school for kids with school troubles. But while in school, Martin uncovers many secrets leading to a satisfying end of the story. I would recommend this book to teenagers because it deals mostly with the struggles of school.

—Blake Wheeler, Class of 2022

Luen Yang, Gene

American Born Chinese

American Born Chinese is an inspiring book by Gene Luen Yang about a young boy named Jin Wang whose parents moved to America from China. The book follows Jin Wang and his troubles fitting in with the other kids from elementary school all the way through high school where he makes a few friends and faces adversity. I recommend this inspiring book to anyone who needs a pick-me-up and is looking for an interesting read.

—Ogden Willoughby, Class of 2022

Lupica, Mike

Summer Ball

This is a fantastic book if any of you guys love sports and especially basketball. I don't really play basketball personally, but I loved this book! It is about some kids that are going to basketball camp over the summer and they have a hard time meeting new friends but it ends up really well! They played against the best players in the country and are on individual teams over the summer. I recommend this book to the people who love sports and action.

—Austin Jourde, Class of 2022

Mann, Charles

1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus

1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus, by Charles C. Mann is a fascinating and eye opening look at American Indian societies as they were before Columbus and other Europeans came. It covers everything from the migration of people into the Americas to Inca Economics and Triple Alliance (Aztec) philosophy. To supplement the writing this book has many maps, pictures, and graphs. All of these help you get a better grasp on the information. This book is a good book for

anyone interested in the Pre-Columbian Americas.

—Max Elder, Class of 2022

Mass, Sarah

A Throne Of Glass

This is an incredible book for anyone who loves adventure, fantasy, and a bit of romance tied together to form an interesting and complex story. It is an adventure about a girl named Aelin who is cast into a life of misfortune where she gets treated as if she means nothing to anyone. With some luck and skill, she gets herself out of the mess and goes on thrilling adventures, finding her true self along the way. I would recommend this book to anyone willing to have a literary journey, and be left wanting more when it is done.

—Sarah Novak, Class of 2022

McKinstry, Carolyn

While the World Watched

I read this book when I was in seventh grade and it was amazing. It is an outstanding autobiography that focuses on fourteen year old Carolyn Maull as she tries to navigate through life while the world watched as African Americans had to deal with Jim Crow Laws, bombings, riots, assassinations and historical marches that characterized the Civil Rights movement. As she grows up, Carolyn must face the gruesome death of her four best friends, dodge bombings, and deal with criticism from her peers just because of the color of her skin. We are able to get an idea of the terrifying things our country had to go through in order to get to where it is now. Pay attention and try not to get too confused as you read this heartbreaking story.

—Xylah Millsap, Class of 2022

Messenger, Shannon

Keeper of the Lost Cities

Keeper of the Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger is the best fantasy story I've read. The plot follows a young girl with extraordinary talents, created by a mysterious group known as the Black Swan. The intense and fanciful plot develops with many unexpected turns and surprises as Sophie Foster gains both allies and enemies throughout the 6 book series (currently). The descriptive language along with the clear setting and well thought-out characters bring vivid images to the reader's mind. A few tense scenes add some violence, but most of the characters quickly bounce back from injury, and there are relatively few deaths. Messenger's writing has noticeable positive themes recurring throughout the book as well. Friendship, trust, and other positive influences appear in a subtle way with more maturity than you would expect. I recommend this book for any fantasy lover that is looking for a book they won't want to stop reading!

—Baylie Theiler, Class of 2023

Meyer, Marissa***Heartless***

Heartless by Marissa Meyer is a riveting novel about the daughter of a Marquess who wants nothing more than to open her own bakery. Along the way to convincing her parents to let her take her dowry and build the business, she finds love, adventure, and new friends. However, after the King of Hearts wishes to marry her, her plans for the bakery fall flat. This fills her with a new found determination to marry who she wishes and open her bakery before the King's proposal is delivered. But the Land of Hearts, thriving with monsters, secret healing potions, and hidden portals, has other plans.

—Kate Humphreys, Class of 2023

Meyer, Marissa***Renegades***

Set in a futuristic city, *The Renegades* are an organization of people with special powers that emerged during an age of absolute chaos. The author writes this novel from two points of views: one a righteous hero, one a bitter villain—both the same age and both with a huge secret that can kill them if the other knew. I love this book since it has a really deep message to it and we can see the story from both the “good guys” and the “villains”. This dystopian novel explores a concept that’s lacking in other similar novels: anarchy. It’s perfect for anyone who loves plot twists, adventure, intense fighting scenes, and unanswered questions.

—Rita Wang, Class of 2022

Noah, Trevor***Born a Crime***

Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime* is a marvelous book full of tales of growing up as a mixed (meaning half black half white) boy during apartheid in South Africa. The book is organized in a way so that between each chapter about him growing up South Africa, there is a page or two of facts and knowledge about apartheid and social classes around the world. The book's title is no joke, being mixed during apartheid was illegal, so he could not be seen with either of his parents, lest they be arrested. Never fitting in this young, mischievous boy finds ways to fit into groups that he does not racially belong to. Being comedian the book is naturally hilarious and will keep you entertained for hours, from being thrown out of a car to going on a date with someone who cannot speak the same language as him. Along with being a good laugh it also gives a deeper understanding of the power and intricate dynamics of race and class. Not just giving knowledge of what they are, but also how to bypass them. This book is great because it really gives a perspective that not many people have on how the world works and gives the ability to see how something as simple as how straight your hair is or how strong your accent is could have taken away your rights, freedom, and even life during apartheid. This book is great for a mature reader who wants to know first hand what it's like being judged by your color and

race, color, and social classes are and what they mean.

—**Sebastian Tabares Erices, Class of 2023**

Nye, Naomi Shihab

The Turtle of Oman

The Turtle of Oman by Naomi Shihab Nye is a realistic representation of a boy, Aref, who has to leave his hometown of Muscat all the way to Michigan. This book about him getting past all of the things that will happen after Aref leaves his home. He doesn't know how to move on from his family, friends, and things left back in Oman. This book is a good read for today because it portrays a very common and realistic scenario of moving that many people can find relatable. I recommend this book to anyone who likes a heartfelt and bittersweet story with extensively detailed writing by the author.

—**Brooke Marx, Class of 2022**

O'Brien, Anne

In the Shadow of the Sun

This book is remarkable for those who adore suspenseful, mysterious, problem-solving, adventurous books. North Korea doesn't seem like the ideal place to have a family vacation, but that's where Mia Andrews finds herself. Just as Mia's dad gets arrested for spying, forbidden pictures of North Korean slave labor camps land in Mia's hands. The only way to save her dad is to get the pictures out of the country. Mia and Simon embark on their journey towards the border with no food or money. It seems that anyone they see might betray them and turn them in. This book also gives some interesting insights on the complicated country of North Korea. *In the Shadow of the Sun* is a compelling story about courage and survival.

—**Cédric Choi, Class of 2022**

Oliver, Lauren

Before I Fall

This is a very realistic and relatable book about the brutality and greatness of being a teenager. It is told from the point of view of a teenage girl named Sam Kingston. After her death in a car accident, she wakes up the next morning to find that she is forced to experience the day of her death over and over again. She deals with bullying, self-confidence, and self-sacrifice after reliving the day seven times. I really enjoyed this book because it showed the common struggles people have to go through. I recommend this book to someone who enjoys books that shine a light on the challenges of living, but also the rewards.

—**Reese Williams, Class of 2022**

Oppel, Kenneth

Airborn

Matt Cruse is so at home in the sky that his crewmates say he is "lighter than air." He spends all of his time as a ship's boy aboard the *Aurora*, one of the most magnificent airships aloft. In this fantasy world, planes,

trains, and boats are replaced with airships. Even though his father was killed in the air, Matt can't stand to stay on land for more than a few days. Then, one day, Kate steps on his ship. She connects Matt with events so long ago that he had almost forgotten them. She opens his eyes to a whole new spectrum of possibility, and when pirates crash the Aurora, Matt discovers that those possibilities may have been reality after all. Matt is one of those characters that you just fall in love with, he is so relatable and honest. A Michael L. printz Award Honor Book filled with fantasy, mystery, romance, suspense, humor, pirates, and flying cats; I could not put it down.

—**Natalia Evans, Class of 2022**

Palacio, R. J.

Wonder

I read this book for the first time in fourth grade, and after that I couldn't stop re-reading it. It had a unique way of putting the lives of other kids into perspective. Though it is a children's literature book, it opens a reader's eyes to a whole new spectrum of perspectives in the world and that not everything is always going to be good. The major themes in this book are self-love, friendship, and remorse. The book is about a young child that has to face deformation and being homeschooled his whole life. His parents decide to send him to school were he faces the terrors of other kids in school causing him to always feel like he doesn't belong. Yet, he finds that there are kids who want to know more about him and who care about who he is, showing him that it's not always about looks. *Wonder* is a book that will enlighten the minds of young children and older individuals to respect and understand the life of another person that may not look like them.

—**Lindsy Reyes, Class of 2022**

Palacio, R. J.

Wonder

The novel *Wonder* by Raquel Jaramillo is a heartwarming tale of family and friendships. The cover of the book immediately draws the attention of passers and stands out from the shelf. I highly recommend it for anyone searching for a novel that will have readers cheering and crying for the main character, Auggie Pullman, who suffers from Treacher Collins syndrome. The book follows Aggie starting school for the first time and his struggles and triumphs throughout the year. He has to make friends and conquer many family struggles. The story will leave readers with a powerful message about acceptance and the power of kindness. *Wonder* is one you won't want to miss and won't put down until the end.

—**Kendall Kozlowski, Class of 2023**

Palacio, R.J.

Wonder

Wonder is a very popular realistic fiction book that has also been made into a movie. The main character named Auggie Pullman has a very rare

face disorder, Treacher Collins Syndrome (TCS) which makes his peers bully him. Auggie has a really hard time making friends because he has never been to school in his life, until now. Auggie gives school a chance, makes friends, and in turn teaches those around him what courage and kindness is. *Wonder* is a great book for young adults, full of exhilarating and also tear-jerking moments.

—**Meredith Waters, Class of 2023**

Paulsen, Gary

Hatchet

Hatchet, a 1987 Newbery Honor award winning book, continues to be one of my favorite reads. It follows 13-year-old Brian on his quest to stay alive after an unexpected plane crash leaves him stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness far from home. Throughout the summer, Brian must try and survive with only his hatchet while struggling with bittersweet memories of his mother. This book possesses a deep plot with a complex character background that makes the book both relatable and thrilling to read.

—**Chloe Deters, Class of 2023**

Peck, Richard

A Year Down Yonder

This book is an easy read that describes the hardships of moving and starting over in a strange new town during a difficult financial time. *A Year Down Yonder* tells the story of a young girl named Mary Alice who goes to stay with her grandma downstate from Chicago because the Great Depression has hit her family hard. During the summer, Mary Alice and her grandma discover ways to survive during this hard time while Mary Alice also learns how to navigate her new situation. Mary Alice struggles to fit in with the kids in her school because she comes from a wealthier family than most of them do, and so they dislike her. Throughout the story she begins to make friends and turn this new town into her home. I recommend this book if you like an easy read that shows the struggles of past historical events.

—**Elsa Deutsch, Class of 2022**

Raughley, Sarah

Fate of Flames

I read this at the recommendation of a friend. It is about four girls, Effigies, who have the ability to control one of the traditional elements, that fight Phantoms. When the fire elemental dies, Maia is chosen and is found by the Sect. She is then sent to apprehend an apparently fifth Effigy who can control the Phantoms. Fast-paced with a murder mystery woven in, this book will leave you reeling for days after.

—**Athar Jabeldo, Class of 2022**

Raughley, Sarah***Fate of Flames***

Fate of Flames is a fantasy book by Sarah Raughley. It's based in a world where there are four girls called Effigies who each control one of the four elements. The main character, Maia, is a girl who wishes she could be a hero and then is pushed into the role of a warrior when one of the Effigies dies. She has to round up all the Effigies, who up until then had never fought as a team, and stop a mysterious terrorist from destroying the world. Throughout the book you'll watch how Maia struggles against the fear she feels at putting her life on the line and her frustration at failing to control her new-found powers. I would absolutely recommend this book, because it's very well written and constantly has you on the edge of your seat.

—**Bella Messina, Class of 2022**

Rawls, Wilson***Where the Red Fern Grows***

We find ourselves with a lonely character who wants a friend. Billy Coleman ends up finding a pair of twin dogs and names them Old Dan and Little Ann. The three of them work hard and become good at hunting. They all go on a fantastic adventure as a group and end up rich and famous. Yet, every good story comes an end. In the book *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls, we go on an adventure through happy and sad moments learning how these dogs are more than animals to Billy. This is a good book for dog lovers.

—**Jackson Nutter, Class of 2022**

Reynolds, Jason***Ghost***

"You can't run away from who you are, but what you can do is run toward who you want to be." —*Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

Ghost is a book about a boy running away from his problems, but can he run fast enough? Castle Cranshaw, a boy obsessed with sunflower seeds and basketball, realizes that if he can outrun a bullet, then he can most likely outrun any kid. Knowing this, he realizes that he can do anything, and he even resorts to illegal activity. In the end, Castle learns a valuable lesson. Overall, this novel is a great book for a quick short read if you are in the mood to contemplate moral dilemmas or if you are interested in reading about characters who are sporty.

—**Jack Cutler, Class of 2024**

Roehrig, Caleb***Last Seen Leaving***

This is an amazing mystery novel that'll have you hooked from the first page. Flynn Doherty's girlfriend suddenly goes missing, and he's desperate to find out what happened. No matter what you think you know about the identity of the culprit, there is always another surprise just around the corner. If you love suspenseful stories with frequent, unexpected plot twists, then this book is the one for you.

—Olivia Wendel, Class of 2022

Roth, Veronica

Divergent

The *Divergent* trilogy is an amazing young adult dystopian fiction series by Veronica Roth. I originally read it the summer before 7th grade, at age 11, and I more recently read it again, at almost 13. This trilogy holds everything you could wish for, tons of adventure, plot twists at every turn, and even some romance. The book takes place in a city quite unlike our cities today, because it has factions. The factions divide the city into groups, including Amity, Abnegation, Dauntless, Erudite, and Candor. The main character is Beatrice (Tris) Prior, and the series follows her and her friends from adventure to adventure, trying to save the population. If you want a series that you can't put down, I recommend the *Divergent* trilogy!

—Hadley Brown, Class of 2023

Rowell, Rainbow

Eleanor & Park

This is a beautifully written romance novel that follows the different narratives of two misfits very much in love in the late 80s. After bonding over the same appreciation for comic books and music, Eleanor, a new girl with a complicated family life, and Park, a boy always finding himself on the edge of "normal" fall desperately in love despite their families, friends, and cultural differences. While this story may follow young love, in no way does it sugar coat it. I recommend this book for anyone that is looking for a brilliantly written novel that, at times, can be sad but also easily relates to the beauty and struggle of young love.

—Maddie Mielenz, Class of 2022

Ruby, Laura

Bone Gap

Bone Gap is a wonderful book for those who enjoy the magic that can be intertwined into our reality. Most of the book is told from the perspective of a boy named Finn who lives in the small town of Bone Gap with his brother Sean. One day, Finn finds a mysterious woman named Rosa in their barn, and she lives with him and his brother until she is suddenly kidnapped. Finn sees the kidnapping, but because he cannot remember the kidnapper's face, the town and his brother refuse to believe him. The storyline follows his adventures to find Rosa as well as looks into his relationship with the strange looking outcast, Priscilla (Petey). The second narrative comes from Rosa, describing her captor and her attempts to escape. The characters are so developed they pop off the page with quirks and downfalls. The setting can be both poetic and eerie, a demonstration of the duality of quaint beauty. Family and fitting in are two themes in this book, amplified through the judgmental town. These two themes may be popular, however the author writes in a way where it seems as if one is seeing them for the first time. The

writing style is perfect for the tone of the book adding to its intrigue with poetic paragraphs. The conflict will leave the reader on edge using the classic cat and mouse chase with a twist. *Bone Gap* is a masterpiece told through magical realism, however it keenly demonstrates our everyday struggles.

—Reese Harrington, Class of 2022

Sachar, Louis

Holes

Holes by Louis Sachar is full of plot twists and adventure. It is about a boy who is wrongly accused of a crime and is sent to a boys' detention center where they spend their time digging holes to "build character". This book has an interesting plot with not much background information about the characters, creating mystery and suspense. Louis Sachar weaves in two very different stories throughout the book that come together in the end. This is easy and fast to read, but I would still recommend it to anyone.

—Kyla Letko, Class of 2022

Scott Card, Orson

Ender's Game

This novel is truly a must for ones who enjoy science fiction and like to think outside of the box. The author lays out an interesting and thought provoking plot that takes non-existing and extraterrestrial entities and turns them into a significant part of the story, and a dilemma for the main character. Ender has to make important decisions because the world is at stake and it's in his own hands, or is it? The book creates an ambiguous environment for the reader to ponder about and think about what will happen next. This book was also given a movie and a sequel a few years after it issued. I recommend this book to people who like books that aren't always clear or easy to conceive what's happening.

—Logan Rollins, Class of 2022

Sedoti, Chelsea

As You Wish

This is a great book for anyone who is a fan of magic and suspense. In the small town of Madison, everyone in the town gets to wish for one thing on their 18th birthday. Usually the wishes shape the entire lives of the people in Madison and it is a huge deal to most of the kids in high school, except for Eldon who is not so sure. His birthday is coming up fast and he still does not know what he is going to wish for. While most of the kids in his town know what to wish for as soon as they turn 18, Eldon has no idea what to wish for. On his birthday, Eldon wishes for something that will turn the town of Madison upside down forever. The only way to find out what he wished for is to read this amazing book.

—Courtney Capoot, Class of 2022

Sepetys, Ruta***Salt To The Sea***

Salt To The Sea is a book surrounding the passengers of a German cruise ship turned refugee boat during the height of WWII. Each character provides an interesting insight into the war, and each hide their own deep, dark secrets. This is the sequel to another book by Ruta Sepetys about the cousin of Joanna, a passenger, called *Between Shades Of Grey*. It is uncommon for WWII novels to portray normal German and Prussian civilians in peril, therefore *Salt To The Sea* is an insightful and captivating read for young adults.

—Haley Howard, Class of 2022

Sepetys, Ruta***Salt to the Sea***

Salt to the Sea is an historical fiction young adult novel by Ruta Sepetys. It is a very entertaining novel that really helps readers understand what life was like during WWII for many different nationalities. The characters in the book are Polish, Lithuanian, American, British, Prussian and German. The story is told from alternate points of view, and the book takes place in the winter of 1945 when several teenage refugees find each other on the road to the ship that promises salvation. Joana, Emila and Florian find their strength, courage and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety.

—Cade Oxley, Class of 2023

Shepard, Sarah***The Heiresses***

This is a great book for anyone looking for a light, fast-paced read. The story follows five privileged heiresses from New York, each belonging to the Saybrook family. When one of them is murdered, their lives are rocked as the mystery of her death unfolds. Throughout the book, the separate stories of each of their lives are told, all connecting to the final answer to their family curse. Sara Shepard's books allow the reader to sit back and enjoy a fictional dramatic story that immerses you in to a whole new lifestyle. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in reading an easy, light book filled with drama, a complicated family tree, and a bit of mystery.

—Sofia Del Castillo, Class of 2022

Shihab Nye, Naomi***The Turtle of Oman***

The Turtle of Oman by a Naomi Shihab Nye is a realistic representation of a boy, Aref, who has to leave his hometown of Muscat, Oman for Michigan. This book is about Aref getting past all of the things that will happen after he leaves his home. He doesn't know how to move on from of his family, friends, and possessions left back in Oman. This book is a good read for today, because it portrays a very common and realistic scenario of moving to different places that many people can find relatable. I recommend this book to anyone who likes a heartfelt and

bittersweet story with extensively detailed writing by the author.

—**Brooke Marx, Class of 2022**

Shusterman, Neal

Arc of a Scythe Series

The *Arc of a Scythe* series by Neal Shusterman includes the two stories *Scythe* and *Thunderhead*. The books are of the biopunk and dystopian genres that take place in a futuristic world where natural death has been eradicated, and the human society is controlled by an advanced system known as the “Thunderhead.” The Scythes are a group separate from the Thunderhead that “glean” or kill people as a way of limiting the overpopulation of humans on Earth. In the beginning of the series, two teenagers, Rowan Damisch and Citra Terranova, are taken under apprenticeship by Scythe Faraday and must complete their training to see if they are suitable to officially become part of the Scythedom. The second book in the series, *Thunderhead*, continues to focus on the society that Citra and Rowan live in and the tasks they have to complete in order to keep the Scythedom from falling apart. I recommend this series for people who like dystopian and action-packed books.

—**Arman Kian, Class of 2022**

Shusterman, Neal

Scythe

Scythe by Neal Shusterman is about a utopian society with an added benefit—everyone is immortal! Injuries are healed, diseases are eradicated, and age regression is commonplace. This is amazing... or is it? Without natural death, there needs to be a way to prevent overpopulation. The answer is “Scythes”, or humans that “monitor” the population growth by “gleaning” citizens. This book follows the story of two teenagers whose lives become intertwined. They are both selected to be Scythe apprentices, one will become a Scythe, and the other will be killed. This is a book of competition, corruption, evil, and good. I would recommend this great story to anyone who likes sci-fi, fantasy, and is looking forward to the future.

—**Max Elder, Class of 2022**

Shusterman, Neal

Scythe

This book is great for readers who enjoy suspense, action, and intricately strung together plots. In the future, humankind has conquered death, but there must be scythes, trained in the art of killing, to keep the population under control. Rowan and Citra are chosen to train to become scythes, but it is the last thing that they want to do. I recommend this book for people who enjoy plot twists, and well-built characters.

—**Jacob Fanale, Class of 2022**

Silvera, Adam

History Is All You Left Me

History Is All You Left Me is the heart wrenching tale of young boy strug-

gling to deal with the death of his first love and ex-boyfriend Theo. As he spirals further into depression while fighting his freshly diagnosed OCD, he finds solace in the place he least expects it, the boy Theo was last dating before he died. Silvera's writing is brutally emotional, with punch after punch that will drag you into the world of the characters. It is an honest and raw portrayal of life after the death of the person you love most and will leave you thinking about it long after you turn the last page.

—Will Mortell, Class of 2022

Sloan, Holly Goldberg

Counting by 7's

Abandoned at birth, Willow Chance, a young girl obsessed with medical diagnoses and natural classification, has grown to love her adopted parents. One day, a tragic accident occurs, leaving Willow lonely and stuck with no support system. She discovers a friend through a trusting acquaintance, and for the first time, she begins to develop social skills. I have found this book exhilarating, but sometimes sad. This book has provided an example of how people change, as well as the benefit of friends. Books usually have a peak to their plot, but this book always seems to be on a peak as something new happens in every chapter. This Whiz kid has now seen the importance to something more than just school.

—Kate Blair, Class of 2024

Smith, Roland

Peak

Peak by Roland Smith is one of the best outdoor-based fictional novels that I have read in many months. The outdoor setting and the cover of the book are what first attracted me to the book. The cover is a very colorful setting that shows people climbing up a steep ice wall. The plot of the book is a very fast moving and it follows a fourteen year old boy as he tries to summit Mount Everest. His father is a professional climber and he runs an operation for people to try and summit Everest. After a turn of events, the boy gets kicked out of his home in New York City and he goes to live with his father in Thailand. The writing by Roland Smith suits the fast pace plot and the characters were put together well. The characters in this book are very interesting, and there are many plot twists that make you not want to put this book down. I recommend this book to anyone who loves an outdoor based, fast-paced novel that you will not want to put down for hours.

—Hastings Traficanti, Class of 2023

Stiefvater, Maggie

The Scorpio Races

The Scorpio Races is an action-packed book, where deadly horses race for money. *The Scorpio Races* is a book you won't want to stop reading. The writing is rich, and the characters are likeable. Puck, the first girl to

participate in the race, shows perseverance while training and racing throughout the book. Sean, her companion, has a very special relationship with his horse Corr, and they have won many races together. The ending is a surprise for everyone. I highly recommend this book.

—**Benjamin Chonchol, Class of 2023**

Thomas, Angie

The Hate U Give

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas is an incredible novel about a young African-American girl who witnesses the shooting of her innocent and unarmed friend. The reader is taken through a realistic yet tragic adventure of what often occurs after racist police shootings. Starr, the protagonist, is a lively and kind teenager who is extremely close with her family and friends. When she and Khalil, one of her childhood friends, are driving together, the two are stopped by a white policeman for no reason, and Khalil is ultimately shot and killed. The case becomes heard nationally, and the book quickly reveals its powerful message of equality and what it means to be a good friend. Ultimately, *The Hate U Give* is an intense and realistic page-turner that will be difficult to put down.

—**Isabella Del Castillo, Class of 2023**

Tolkien, J.R.R.

The Hobbit

The Hobbit was a great book both times I read it, and that statement is coming from a person who doesn't really like J.R.R. Tolkien's writing style. This book just has a great story to it, between the majestic setting, the non-stop action, and the confounding riddles and puzzles. I like a good action story and that is exactly what J.R.R. Tolkien brings to the table with *The Hobbit*. This book will have you flying on eagles' backs and running through goblin tunnels by the time you are done with it. I recommend this book to anyone who needs a small escape from reality.

—**Michael Redmond, Class of 2022**

Twain, Mark

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain is a book about a young boy named Tom, who loves to take many risks and goes on many adventures with his friend named Huck. This fiction takes place in the 1840's in a town called St. Petersburg, Mississippi. Tom is a very mischievous child who likes to skip school, he runs away from home, and Tom also gets trapped in a cave where he and a girl named Becky almost starve to death. I think the author did a great job moving the readers along and I felt like I was a member of St. Petersburg. I felt nervous when I read that Tom and Huck saw their nemesis Injun Joe murder someone, and I was very excited when Huck was finally adopted by a very nice woman. There were lots of scenes where I was sitting at the edge of my seat, and I wanted to know what happened next. I recommend this book for anyone who wants to play with Tom and have a good time.

—Preity Singh, Class of 2023

Watterson, Bill *Calvin and Hobbes: Weirdos from Another Planet*

I have been reading Calvin and Hobbes books since before I can remember. In fact, I largely credit these comics for most of my vocabulary and learning to read in general, as I would sound out the words and ask my mom what they meant. This particular collection of Calvin and Hobbes comics centers on one where Calvin goes to Mars to escape Earth's pollution. These books are aimed at all ages of people and toward anyone who wants a good laugh.

—Tommy McKissick, Class of 2022

Wiesel, Elie *Night*

This book is a poignant story about the author, Elie Wiesel's experience through the traumatizing Nazi German Concentration Camp between 1944–1945. Wiesel suffers through phases of starvation and abuse as well as encounters a difficult dilemma along the way. He travels through series of camps, Auschwitz, Buna and Buchenwald while being separated from his mother and younger sister, yet remaining close to his father. This biography is perfect for the one who loves reading stories about the mournful Jewish Holocaust and reflection about surviving.

—Isa Ayers-Harrison, Class of 2022

Woodson, Jacqueline *After Tupac and D Foster*

This book explores the friendships and hardships developed between characters of different races and social standards. This book is excellent for anyone looking to read about the influences of powerful leaders on young people as well as following the story of three friends finding their purpose in life. Freedom and opportunities between races is an idea expressed several times within this book. Woodson's ability to impact the reader's thoughts on a topic such as stereotypes is amplified by her recurring themes surrounding the main topic of race.

—Eleanor Sobil, Class of 2022

Yancey, Rick *The 5th Wave*

The 5th Wave is a science fiction book that is about a girl name Cassie Sullivan and her trying to survive the five waves. One day an alien spaceship arrives in the United States and they want earth as their territory. In an attempt to kill off the humans there are five waves used to wipe everyone out. Cassie and her family is trying to survive the five waves and any other alien attacks. If you enjoy science fiction or action books, then this is a great book to read.

—Claire van Kempen, Class of 2022

Yancey, Rick

The 5th Wave

This book is a very gripping science fiction/action novel. When I read *The 5th Wave*, I couldn't put it down! Not only is it a fascinating story about an alien takeover of Earth, but the way the Rick Yancey tells the story from the perspective of multiple characters helps the reader better understand the plot of the story. The different perspectives also help with character development, which is very prominent in the story.

—**Jack Greco, Class of 2022**

Yancey, Rick

The 5th Wave

The book *The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey is a sci-fi action book following 5 very different characters that alternate between chapters. It is the first in a series of books about humans trying to survive an alien invasion and eventually, every human being wiped out, except the main characters. Humans try to defend themselves against aliens, who can kill someone and take their form, making them very tricky and hard to find. There are five different waves, each one worse than the one before, and eventually getting closer to wiping out everyone. The book is about trust, perseverance, survival, and gets very intense. This book has you on the edge of your seat for the whole book. I recommend this book to be who like action, violence, and things out of this world. I love this book and I would give it 9/10 stars.

—**Cody Avis, Class of 2023**

Yang, Gene

American Born Chinese

American Born Chinese is an inspiring book by Gene Luen Yang about a young boy named Jin Wang whose parents moved to America from China. The book follows Jin Wang and his troubles fitting in with the other kids, the book follows Jin Wang all the way through high school where he makes few friends and faces adversity. I recommend this inspiring book to anyone who needs picking up.

—**Ogden Willoughby, Class of 2022**

Yang, Gene

The Shadow Hero

The book *The Shadow Hero* by Gene Luen Yang is an action-packed book that explains how Hank, the main character, lives his life to become a superhero. While at work, Hank's mom is held at gunpoint but saved in the nick of time by a superhero. When she gets home, she tells everyone about the superhero and how she wants Hank to become one. He disagrees at first, but after his dad gets shot, Hank wants to get revenge. *The Shadow Hero* follows all of the adventures that happen to Hank on his journey to becoming a superhero.

—**William Writer, Class of 2022**

Yoon, Nicola

Everything, Everything

Everything, Everything is a match made in heaven for all avid and intermediate readers alike. This book allows you to immerse yourself in the main character Maddy's life. Maddy is a young adult who has a rare disease that prevents her from ever going outside. The story is about Maddy who falls in love with her neighbor but is forbidden to meet him and leave her house. This book will make you cry, laugh out loud, even make you a little mad at some points, but the author, Nicola Yoon, has perfected this emotional and modern forbidden love story.

—**Sami Snyder, Class of 2022**

Yoon, Nicola

Everything, Everything

Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon is an incredible book that is still one of my favorites. Even though I read it a year ago, it is filled with heartbreak, love, and adventure. Eighteen year old Madeline Whittier has been living inside her house with her mom Pauline, and her nurse Carla for seventeen years after an accident. When Madeline was younger, the doctors figured out that she is allergic to everything on earth including plants, animals, etc. Madeline is living a perfectly normal life until a boy named Olly moves next door. It is practically love at first sight because ever since she sees him, she can't stop thinking about him. He changes her life in a dramatic way by making her want to figure out more about her life. Many secrets are uncovered, and many hearts are broken. Though this book includes many hardships for the characters in it, those hardships and emotions are what make this book so incredible. I couldn't put this book down because I loved it so much, and I would definitely recommend it!

—**Audrey Davies, Class of 2023**

Yousafzai, Malala

I Am Malala

In the autobiography *I am Malala*, Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick tells the story of how Malala Yousafzai stood up for education and inspires young women. Rules against girls' education began in Swat, Pakistan, when a militant Islamic group, the TNSM, believed that an earthquake was a warning from God and began endorsing strict Sharia laws that prohibit young women from going to school and being seen in the market. Malala's mother is too scared to walk in the public streets when religious groups take control of the country and don't allow women to be seen in public or receive an education. Ten year old Malala bravely fights for her education and rights until she is shot for sneaking into school and speaking about her beliefs on national television. She still raised awareness for her friends in her home country when she moved to Birmingham, England, never afraid of being punished for standing up for her rights. Encouraged by her father, Malala broke the Sharia laws to learn more and inspire other girls to do the same. This

book stood out to me because it told a true story of how education has changed because Malala Yousafzai was brave enough to fight for what she believed in.

—Bryce Cussler, Class of 2023





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