

# STEVENSON 2021 SUMMER READING

## MISSION

Summer is a truly wonderful time to read. We ask that all Stevenson students set aside social media and spend time with books that open their minds to new ideas and communities. Most courses offer a selection of titles that will introduce foundational themes for the course.

We hope you will enjoy delving into reading this summer. Please follow the instructions below to select titles appropriate for both the history and English courses in which you are enrolled. Before we begin classes this fall, we ask that you go to your Pirate Page and reflect on one of your selected titles. This Reading Reflection serves both as an opportunity to help you process the text, and as a chance for your teacher to begin to get to know you. This reflection is not graded (and we hope does not feel stressful), but please complete this task both independently and thoughtfully.

Please note that these lists have been built with care by your teachers, who have selected titles we believe students will find both compelling and entertaining, though it is important to acknowledge that on occasion students may encounter graphic material or offensive language. *Click the green text for teacher recommendations and content warnings for some books on each list.*

## ENTERING GRADE 9 *INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY GENRES & INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL STUDIES*

In ninth grade, both your English and history classes explore the themes of identity and place. Select at least two titles from the following books that take up this theme in different ways. Don't forget to visit your student Pirate Page for a post-reading reflection.

<a href="#"><i>The Catcher in the Rye</i></a> J.D. Salinger	<i>Life of Pi</i> Yann Martel	<i>The Star Side of Bird Hill</i> Naomi Jackson
<i>Citizen Illegal</i> José Olivarez	<i>Luka and the Fire of Life</i> Salman Rushdie	<i>Treasure Island</i> Robert Louis Stevenson
<a href="#"><i>Dragon Hoops</i></a> Gene Luen Yang*	<i>March, Book 1</i> John Lewis*	<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> Betty Smith
<a href="#"><i>Farewell to Manzanar</i></a> Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston & James D. Houston	<i>Nervous Conditions</i> Tsitsi Dangarembga	<i>Uncle Tungsten</i> Oliver Sacks
<i>The Good Thief</i> Hannah Tinti	<i>No One is Too Small to Make a Difference</i> Greta Thunberg	<a href="#"><i>We Have Always Lived in the Castle</i></a> Shirley Jackson
<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i> Julia Alvarez	<i>Red Sky at Morning</i> Richard Bradford	<a href="#"><i>The World Without Us</i></a> Alan Weisman
<i>I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter</i> Erica Sanchez	<a href="#"><i>A Separate Peace</i></a> John Knowles	

\*graphic novel or memoir

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## ENTERING GRADE 10 *ENG 2 AND 2H: LANGUAGE & POWER, THE MODERN WORLD, AND AP WORLD HISTORY*

In 10th grade, students explore themes of language and power in English. Relatedly, students examine people's experiences of structures of power and authority in history. The titles provided for summer reading each take up these ideas in different ways. All sophomore history students are asked to read *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe and bring a copy of this book to class in the fall. Select at least one additional title from the list below (note: if you are enrolled in English 2 Honors, please select at least two additional titles). Don't forget to visit your student Pirate Page for a post-reading reflection.

<i>The Book Thief</i> Marcus Zusa	<i>Half a Yellow Sun</i> Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	<i>A Man Called Ove</i> Frederick Backman
<i>Brave New World</i> Aldous Huxley	<i>1984</i> George Orwell	<i>The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat</i> Oliver Sacks
<i>Children of Blood and Bone</i> Tomi Adeyemi	<i>Sense &amp; Sensibility</i> Jane Austen	<i>Never Let Me Go</i> Kazuo Ishiguro
<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i> Mark Haddon	<i>The House in the Cerulean Sea</i> TJ Klune	<i>Night</i> Elie Wiesel
<i>Ella Minnow Pea: A Novel in Letters</i> Mark Dunn	<i>I Was Their American Dream: A Graphic Memoir</i> Malaka Gharib*	<i>The Night Circus</i> Erin Morgenstern
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> Ray Bradbury	<i>Let the Great World Spin</i> Colum McCann	<i>Unbroken</i> Laura Hillenbrand
<i>Hagseed</i> Margaret Atwood		

\*graphic novel or memoir

## ENTERING GRADE 11 *ENG 3 AND 3H: VOICES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND U.S. HISTORY/AP UNITED STATES HISTORY*

Both 11th grade history and English courses explore U.S. history and voices in American literature. Students are asked to select at least two titles from the list of works from American authors below. In addition, students taking English 3 Honors are required to read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. Please bring a hard copy of this book to class in the fall, and be prepared to begin English 3 Honors ready to participate in a discussion of the text. You can find guided reading questions [here](#).

<i>All Adults Here</i> Emma Straub	<i>The Glass Castle</i> Jeanette Walls	<i>Moneyball</i> Michael Lewis
<i>Americanah</i> Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	<i>Human Errors</i> Nathan H. Lents	<i>Nine Stories</i> J. D. Salinger
<i>An American Marriage</i> Tayari Jones	<i>In Cold Blood</i> Truman Capote	<i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> Annie Dillard
<i>The Bell Jar</i> Sylvia Plath	<i>Interpreter of Maladies</i> Jhumpa Lahiri	<i>Property</i> Valerie Martin
<i>Continental Divide</i> Alex Myers	<i>Into the Wild</i> Jon Krakauer	<i>Shoeless Joe</i> W. P. Kinsella
<i>Curious Case of Benjamin Button &amp; Other Jazz Age Stories</i> F. Scott Fitzgerald	<i>Just Mercy: A Story of Redemption and Justice</i> Bryan Stevenson**	<i>The Tortilla Curtain</i> T. C. Boyle
<i>East of Eden</i> John Steinbeck	<i>Last Night at the Lobster</i> Stewart O'Nan	<i>The Vanishing Half</i> Brit Bennett
<i>Educated</i> Tara Westover	<i>Little Fires Everywhere</i> Celeste Ng	<i>Walking to Listen</i> Andrew Forsthoefel
<i>Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?</i> Bill McKibben		

\*\*This book has been adapted for young adults; students may read the original or YA version.

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## ENTERING GRADE 11 OR 12 AP ART HISTORY

In AP Art History students will explore the role of art both in responding to contemporary circumstances and in shaping history. To prepare for this journey, this summer you are asked to select one title from the following. Don't forget to visit your student Pirate Page for a post-reading reflection

<i>The Birth of Venus: A Novel</i> Sarah Dunant	<i>Brunelleschi's Dome</i> Ross King	<i>Frida: A Novel of Frida Kahlo</i> Barbara Mujica
<i>The Accidental Masterpiece: On the Art of Life and Vice Versa</i> Michael Kimmelman	<i>Sunflowers</i> Sheramy Bundrick	<i>Clara and Mr. Tiffany</i> Susan Vreeland
<i>Luncheon of the Boating Party</i> Susan Vreeland	<i>The Forger's Spell: A True Story of Vermeer, Nazis, and the Greatest Art Hoax of the Twentieth Century</i> Edward Dolnick	<i>The Art Forger</i> B.A. Shapiro
<i>Sunflowers</i> Sheramy Bundrick	<i>Seven Days in the Art World</i> Sarah Thornton	

## ENTERING GRADE 12 AP ECONOMICS

In AP Economics this year, students will delve into macroeconomics, or the study of the operation of national economies, with a special emphasis on real world applications. To introduce overarching themes in the study of macroeconomics, students are tasked with reading *Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science* by Charles Wheelan.

## ENTERING GRADE 12 ENGLISH GRADE 12 ELECTIVES

In your semester-long English classes as a senior, you will have the opportunity to explore a specific topic or theme in depth, which will prepare you well for your college coursework. While the titles below do not reflect a single theme, they have been selected by your teachers as engrossing reads. While the content may be more mature than you have encountered on our previous lists, this is a reflection of your readiness as a rising senior to grapple with the complexities of our world.

You should read a minimum of two books from this list (unless this requires you to read more than three summer reading books for your English and history classes in total). Read through the descriptions below to help you find your matches, and once you have finished your reading, visit your student Pirate Page to complete a post-reading reflection on one of the self-selected books.

<i>American Spy</i> Lauren Wilkinson	<i>I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us, and a Grand View of Life</i> Ed Yong	<i>The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon</i> David Grann
<i>Atonement</i> Ian McEwan	<i>Infinite Country</i> Patricia Engel	<i>Nick</i> Michael Farris Smith
<i>Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life</i> William Finnegan	<i>Jane Eyre</i> Charlotte Brontë	<i>On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous</i> Ocean Vuong
<i>Beartown</i> Fredrick Backman	<i>Lab Girl</i> Hope Jahren	<i>100 Years of the Best American Short Stories</i> Lorrie Moore and Heidi Pitlor, editors
<i>Bravey: Chasing Dreams, Befriending Pain, and Other Big Ideas</i> Alexi Pappas	<i>The Other Americans</i> Laila Lalami	<i>The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History</i> Elizabeth Kolbert
<i>The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup: My Encounters with Extraordinary People</i> Susan Orleans	<i>Leaves of Grass</i> Walt Whitman	<i>There, There</i> Tommy Orange
<i>Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic</i> Alison Bechdel*	<i>The Left Hand of Darkness</i> Ursula LeGuin	<i>The Woman in Black</i> Susan Hill

*The Hours*  
Michael Cunningham

\*graphic novel or memoir  
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## ENTERING GRADE 12 AP LITERATURE

The required text for AP Literature is *Song of Solomon*, by Toni Morrison. Please bring a copy of this book to class in the fall, and be prepared to begin AP Literature ready to participate in a discussion of the text. Our discussion of this book will set the tone for the entire year and provide the lens by which we will approach all reading assignments.

In addition, you should select two books from the list below (unless this requires you to read more than three summer reading books for your English and history classes in total). Visit your student Pirate Page to complete a post-reading reflection on one of the selected books.

<u><i>American Spy</i></u> Lauren Wilkinson	<u><i>I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us, and a Grand View of Life</i></u> Ed Yong	<u><i>The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon</i></u> David Grann
<u><i>Atonement</i></u> Ian McEwan	<u><i>Infinite Country</i></u> Patricia Engel	<u><i>Nick</i></u> Michael Farris Smith
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<u><i>Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic</i></u> Alison Bechdel*	<u><i>The Left Hand of Darkness</i></u> Ursula LeGuin	<u><i>The Woman in Black</i></u> Susan Hill

*The Hours*  
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## TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS, SELECTION STORIES, AND WARNINGS

### GRADE 9: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY GENRES & INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL STUDIES

#### ***The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger**

Mr. Schmittgens's recommendation: Published in 1951, *Catcher in the Rye* is often viewed as a modern "coming of age" classic. The main character, a disillusioned, rebellious, and sensitive prep-school dropout recalls a three-day period of events that leads to his emotional breakdown. Popular to generations of readers—and noted in its day for the protagonist's salty language—the story offers an unvarnished and often humorous examination of the heartbreak, hypocrisy, and pivotal events associated with adolescence. I remember picking up this book in high school (but not as an assigned reading for a class), and loving it for its humor and its journey into the world of boarding schools (a complete mystery to me) and New York City, a city that captured my imagination. It was one of those books that I felt as though I could really hear the voice of the narrator and protagonist, and while I did not particularly identify WITH him, I certainly felt something FOR him.

#### ***Dragon Hoops*, Gene Luen Yang**

Mrs. Bates's recommendation: This fast-paced graphic memoir follows a high school basketball team in northern California as they pursue a state title. While it will likely appeal to athletes, I love that it was written by an author who had never identified as a 'sports guy' but found belonging as part of this team. The narrative includes glimpses into the history of basketball and the importance of the sport in a variety of cultures.

#### ***Farewell to Manzanar*, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston**

Dr. Jacobs's recommendation: This dramatic and chilling memoir recounts adjustment and resilience of a young Japanese-American girl during World War II as she was forcibly relocated to Manzanar, a Japanese internment camp far from her California home. What I really love about this book is that it beautifully narrates the difficult history of the United States's reckoning with race and ethnicity in the early 1940s from the perspective of a girl slightly younger than you. In this short but powerful coming of age story, Jeanne Wakatsuki grapples with themes that you may have experienced yourself and that we will explore more deeply in your first year at Stevenson: reconciling the myriad components of identity, the concept of home, and adapting to circumstances beyond one's control.

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

Dr. Matabane's Recommendation: Already considered an "American classic" ASP is one of my all-time favorite novels! It's old school New England boarding school life + messy friendships and an accident that may or may not be an accident! And it's short but wonderfully written!

#### ***We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, Shirley Jackson**

Dr. Matabane's Recommendation: Plot centers on a teenaged girl with deadly interests. She's part of a quirky family whose wealth and legacy are in decline just like the big house they live in that's falling apart in a town that despises them.

#### ***The World Without Us*, Alan Weisman**

Dr. Hiles's recommendation: What would happen to the planet if all human beings suddenly disappeared from it? This thought experiment reads like a thriller, as Weisman imagines what would happen to humanity's footprint without us to maintain it: subways would flood, plantlife would overtake roads, and house cats would do just fine. Ultimately, this accessible, enthralling book shows the depth and reach of our impact on the planet, and offers a hopeful path forward to a more sustainable future for Earth—hopefully with us in it.

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### GRADE 10: ENG 2 AND 2H: LANGUAGE & POWER, THE MODERN WORLD, AND AP WORLD HISTORY

#### ***Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe**

We can seldom say that a book will change your life, but *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe will likely do so. Spend some time with a preindustrial yet modern society and see what it looked like in African traditional tribal states when the European imperialists showed up to "claim" their lands. This is the biggest issue of modern history and it summarizes many essential themes that will clarify your understanding of the modern world.

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

Mr. Salerno's recommendation: A riveting murder/mystery, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is a fast-paced, beautifully written tale of an autistic boy who tries to unravel a neighborhood crime. The protagonist's way of looking at the world is enthralling, highly unusual, and thought provoking. On his way to uncovering the killing of a dog, the boy finds out much more than anticipated about the world around him. This novel is an absolute gem.

#### ***Hagseed*, Margaret Atwood**

Dr. Hiles's recommendation: For those of you who just read *The Tempest* in English 1, *Hagseed* is sure to be a treat. Margaret Atwood has reworked Shakespeare's play into a clever and fast-paced novel set in contemporary Canada. Several years after a betrayal that ousted him from the directorship of his theater company, Felix is staging *The Tempest* at a local prison—it's the only stage he's got now, and he's hopeful that this production will somehow relaunch his career and reconcile him to his long-lost daughter.

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***Sense & Sensibility*, Jane Austen**

Dr. Cabral's Recommendation: I was first introduced to Jane Austen through the 1995 film version of *Sense and Sensibility*. I remember going to see it with my grandmother in Florida and walking out of the theatre still thinking about the characters and the twists and turns of the plot. I remember wanting to go back and watch it again. I later went on to read *Sense and Sensibility* and Austen's *Mansfield Park* in college. My "Moral Philosophy" professor, Malcolm Reid, took our class to see the film adaptation of *Mansfield Park*, the one that came out in 1999. Over a scone, he laughingly quoted an academic (his name is escaping me) who said that he only reads Jane Austen and reads all seven of her novels every year. Some of my sophomores this year have said that their favorite genre is romance, so this might be especially appealing for anyone who enjoys a great love story!

***The House in the Cerulean Sea*, T.J. Klune**

Ms. Peterson's Recommendation: Big-hearted and enchanting, *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is about a lonely caseworker, Linus Baker, who works for the department in charge of magical youth. He is sent to an orphanage on a magical island to assess whether or not the magical orphans are being cared for properly. What Linus finds is a family he never knew he needed, a love he never thought possible, and a renewed appreciation for the unexpected. If you want to be wrapped in a feel-good, beach blanket of a book this summer, read this!

***Unbroken*, Laura Hillenbrand**

Mr. O'Donnell's recommendation: Following the life of Louis Zamperini, this book showcases the extraordinary story of a young adult who experiences life as an Olympic athlete in the 1936 Berlin games, an Airforce pilot, and then a survivor of an airplane crash that becomes a POW for the Japanese during WW II. The author shows how far one is willing to go for survival, and through triumph and tragedy how to be positive and grateful for all that you have experienced in life or look forward to.

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**GRADE 11: ENG 3 AND 3H: VOICES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND U.S. HISTORY/AP UNITED STATES HISTORY*****The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls**

Ms. Stockdale's recommendation: This powerful memoir tells the story of a family that is both deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. Beginning to recall her stories from a very young age, Jeannette takes you on a journey across the country, as the four children learn to take care of themselves. As they grow up, they navigate relationships with a father who juggles severe alcoholism and a charismatic imagination and a mother whose free spirited nature leaves her avoidant of domestic responsibilities such as raising a family. A true story of resilience and redemption, this memoir tells of an intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.

***Into the Wild*, John Krakauer**

Mr. Rymzo's recommendation: I read this book in a day and could not stop thinking about it for weeks after. Krakauer's page-turner chronicles the odyssey of Chris McCandless, who, after graduating from Emory University in 1991, roams across the American West, along the way abandoning his car, most of his possessions, donating \$25,000 in savings to charity, and burning all the cash in his wallet. In August 1992, his body was found by moose hunters in the Alaskan wilderness. Borderline obsessed, Krakauer searches for clues to unpack the mystery. If you're looking for riveting non-fiction, the search ends here.

***Last Night at the Lobster*, Stewart O'Nan**

Dr. Hiles's recommendation: The "lobster" of the title refers to a Red Lobster restaurant that the invisible decision-makers at the corporate office have decided to close because of dismal profits. O'Nan's novella follows the restaurant's manager through his final shift as he comes to realize that in many ways, his goals in life are out of reach, and the camaraderie he developed with his co-workers will not be easily replaced. O'Nan's spare, searing prose might surprise you for how it brings the ho-hum procedures of hourly-pay restaurant work to vivid life, while asking vital questions about the state of the American dream.

***Little Fires Everywhere*, Celeste Ng**

Mrs. Bates's recommendation: Grab a few friends and get them to read this one along with you. While it's not my favorite writing of all time (I give it a B+), it was one of my favorite book club discussions of all time. I love the omniscient narrator (it's hard to choose sides!), how seriously Ng takes her high school characters, and the mystery that propels you to the finish (who set the fire after all??).

***Moneyball*, Michael Lewis**

Mr. Bates's recommendation: This was the first Michael Lewis book I'd read and it totally blew my mind. It follows the journey of my favorite sports team, the Oakland A's, who were the poorest team in major league baseball yet developed an analytical approach that challenged conformity and changed the way decision-makers of the world think about data analytics. It was so gripping and thought-provoking that I read the whole book in day. And FYI, you do not need to know anything about baseball to enjoy this book!

***Nine Stories*, J.D. Salinger**

Mr. Schmittgens's recommendation: If, by chance, you enjoyed *Catcher in the Rye*, you will certainly appreciate this collection of short stories. A discerning reader will note similarities between the works, especially in terms of tone and humor. However, some of these stories project a much darker worldview.

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***The Vanishing Half*, Brit Bennett**

Dr. Hiles's recommendation: Brit Bennett's second novel is astonishing for its sweeping scope and its meticulous detail. Here is the story of two twin sisters in mid-century America, one of whom decides to pass as white, thereby tearing herself away from her Black identity, her past, and her family—including her other half, her twin sister. This decision carries into the next generation as her niece uncovers the family secret, tracks down her cousin, and discovers her own identity as she falls in love with someone who has been passing in a different way. I loved escaping into this book and didn't want to have to leave these characters or Bennett's exquisite prose behind. (Some sexual violence and racial slurs.)

***Walking to Listen*, Andrew Forsthoefel**

Mrs. Clark's recommendation: *Walking to Listen* tells the story of recent college graduate Andrew Forsthoefel as he embarks on the journey of a lifetime. Heading out his back door in Pennsylvania, he travels the roads and routes of America on his own two feet. Along the way, he searches for stories and the opportunity to listen to those he meets. Andrew learns what it means to live in America and hear from the diverse citizens who inhabit this land. A coming of age meets adventure story, *Walking to Listen* offers a ground view of America and the stories that makeup this nation.

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**GRADE 12: ELECTIVES OR AP LITERATURE**

***American Spy*, Lauren Wilkinson**

A Cold War spy novel with a twist: the spy at the center is an African American woman who sees through many of the promises about "ends justifying means" in the US intelligence world. Her assignment to interfere in the politics of Burkina Faso will force her to question her loyalties and re-examine her family's past.

***Atonement*, Ian McEwan**

One night in the 1930s at an English country estate, a thirteen-year old witnesses something she is too young to understand, and sweeps the people around her into a series of tragic misunderstandings that last decades and shatter lives. McEwan's novel is unforgettable and provocative (in all senses of the word—including some sexually explicit language) as he traces the myriad paths of individual lives against the backdrop of WWII.

***Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life*, William Finnegan**

Mr. Bates recommendation: If you have even the slightest interest in the ocean, surfing, travel, and adventure, this book will be hard to put down. Finnegan, an obsessed surfer and dazzling writer, won the Pulitzer Prize for this account of his travels around the world catching waves. In all seriousness, this might be the best book I have ever read.

***Beartown*, Fredrick Backman**

In a rural Swedish town, life revolves around the hopes of a junior ice hockey team winning a major championship. When the team's star player is accused of raping the general manager's daughter, life as the town knows it is upended as characters grapple with the complexities of knowing and navigating the truth. This is a gripping story that explores an important issue.

***Bravey: Chasing Dreams, Befriending Pain, and Other Big Ideas*, Alexi Pappas**

Author Alexi Pappas is an Olympic runner, actress, filmmaker and writer, and this collection of personal essays is part coming-of-age story, part advice/inspirational writing. Her book explores chasing dreams, mental health, (including her own struggles with depression and the difficult death of her mother), and the challenges and rewards of navigating our world as a strong female athlete.

***The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup: My Encounters with Extraordinary People*, Susan Orleans**

Especially if you are enrolled in the *New Yorker* elective for the spring, this title would be a terrific choice. Each essay is a portrait of a person—from "the typical ten-year-old boy" to a show dog to the first female matador in Spain, and serves as a reminder of how fascinating we all are. Orleans's essays provide inspiration for the profile you will write in class.

***Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, Alison Bechdel\***

This award-winning graphic memoir chronicles the author's life growing up in Pennsylvania where her family owned a funeral home. The narrative explores Bechdel's own coming of age as a lesbian while also navigating revelations about her father's sexuality after his death. The narrator is poignant, funny and smart (lots of fun literary references). The story includes some sexually explicit content.

***The Hours*, Michael Cunningham**

Cunningham's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel takes Virginia Woolf's novel *Mrs. Dalloway* as a starting point, but you don't have to have read Woolf to enjoy the narrative layering and intricate cross-connections here. Cunningham weaves together the lives of three women (one of whom is Woolf writing her novel) in different cities and different decades, struggling to find not just happiness, but self-expression. (Some mature themes, including suicide and the AIDS crisis.)

***I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us, and a Grand View of Life*, Ed Yong**

We all contain multitudes—millions upon millions of bacteria and other microbes. In fact, we wouldn't be alive without them. If you are interested in learning more about the creatures who call your body home, join Ed Yong for a "microbe's-eye view" of you in this new classic in popular science writing.

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**Infinite Country, Patricia Engel**

In her 2021 novel, Engel, who holds dual citizenship in the US and Colombia, tells the story of a family separated by borders and caught in America's immigration system—a system that fuels frustration but also inspires hope in the characters. (One brief passage of sexual violence.)

**Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë**

If you are planning to take the Gothic elective, this novel is a terrific preparation. Plain, orphaned Jane survives a cold, uncaring step-family and a nightmarish boarding school before finding employment at Thornfield Hall, residence of the mysterious Mr. Rochester. But Thornfield and Rochester are haunted by nightmares and secrets of their own, and Jane's search for love, independence, and acceptance becomes a strange and fascinating tale.

**Lab Girl, Hope Jahren**

Jahren's funny and accessible memoir is about much more than plants: she relates the joys and challenges of being a woman in science, introduces us to her hilarious and colorful lab assistant Bill (when is his memoir coming out!?), and wonders about the mysteries of the plant world all around us. Even her telling of the birth of her son (the one relatively gory chapter here) is at once wry and poignant because of her refreshing, distinctive voice.

**The Other Americans, Laila Lalami**

Mr. Schmittgens's recommendation: I really enjoyed this book, a story that offered me insight to a world unlike my own. Covering two generations of an immigrant family, the story begins with the mysterious death of a Moroccan restaurant owner and expands into the lives of this small-town California community of native and foreign-born residents who share similar struggles and aspirations. The story is somewhat complex—as it moves from one time period and narrator to another—but I found the tale (something of a detective story) intriguing and captivating. (Note: some mature themes, violence)

**Leaves of Grass, Walt Whitman**

This is America. Perhaps the most important collection of American poetry, and eminently readable.

**The Left Hand of Darkness, Ursula LeGuin**

One of the great science fiction writers, Le Guin imagines a planet on which gender is not fixed—individuals can periodically become male or female. The world building is mind-boggling in its detail as Le Guin intersperses the journals of a visitor from Earth with the society's mythological stories in a story about power and betrayal reminiscent of *Game of Thrones*.

**The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon, David Grann**

If you are looking for an adventure on the page this summer, David Grann's book is for you. Grann tells the riveting true story of the search for a lost explorer in the Amazon who had disappeared searching for "the Lost City of Z" in 1925. Grann is swept up in the search as well all these years later, and the result is a masterpiece of narrative nonfiction that will be hard to put down.

**Nick, Michael Farris Smith**

A 2021 prequel to *The Great Gatsby*, in which Smith imagines Nick away at war in France and later wandering New Orleans just before his arrival in New York City in the spring of 1922. The writing glows on its own, but Smith also offers tantalizing suggestions about how Nick's experiences in these years might have shaped his telling of *Gatsby's* story.

**On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous, Ocean Vuong**

Ms. Stockdale's recommendation: Ocean Vuong, an acclaimed poet, writes a stunning novel in the format of a letter from a son to a mother who cannot read. In this novel, Vuong navigates issues of race, class, and masculinity as he tries to make sense of his family's past, which originated in Vietnam, and present. While this novel covers challenging topics, such as addiction, violence and trauma, it also unearths the beauty in telling your story and the desperate need to feel heard in the sharing of such stories. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys poetry, as at times this novel reads as such.

**100 Years of the Best American Short Stories, Lorrie Moore and Heidi Pitlor, editors**

Mrs. Bates's recommendation: Especially if you plan to take the Short Story elective, this anthology is a great way to explore the form. You can jump around (no pressure to read the whole thing!) to begin to discover styles and storylines that captivate you. The ZZ Packer, Jhumpa Lahiri and Donald Barthelme stories are three of my favorites.

**The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History, Elizabeth Kolbert**

*New Yorker* writer Elizabeth Kolbert charts the five major mass extinction events on the planet as prelude to her investigation of the sixth event - happening now. This Pulitzer Prize-winning book weaves together multiple scientific fields into an engrossing and accessible narrative.

**There, There, Tommy Orange**

Orange's novel redefines what it means to be Native American: his characters are alive now, and live in Oakland, California. Told from multiple perspectives, Orange not only brings a diverse set of individual experiences together in this contemporary context, he brings the past to bear on the present. (Includes passages recounting violence against Native Americans in history, and also some gun violence in the present of the novel.)

**The Woman in Black, Susan Hill**

A terrific, fast-paced ghost story set in early 20th-century England, complete with dense fogs, mysterious churchyards, a haunted house that becomes unreachable once the tide comes in, and a lonely protagonist desperately searching for the blurred line between dream and reality.

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## AP ECONOMICS

### ***Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science*, Charles Wheelan**

Demystifying buzzwords, laying bare the truths behind oft-quoted numbers, and answering the questions you were always too embarrassed to ask, the breezy *Naked Economics* gives readers the tools they need to engage with pleasure and confidence in the deeply relevant, not so dismal science.

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