

# STAMFORD HIGH SUMMER READING 2017

Select ONE summer reading book. The list below provides some suggestions.



Spend time reading a good book this summer. We have provided suggestions for inspiration, but feel free to choose a title that does not appear on the list. Chat with your friends, parents, teachers, and librarians about the books *they* recommend. Browse the shelves in the library and in book stores or read reviews online. Choose a fiction or nonfiction book that interests you and that challenges you. The possibilities are nearly endless. Our purpose is to encourage you to find an enjoyable summer read. Expect that your English teacher will assess your reading when you return to school. Have a great summer!

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## Some Reading Suggestions

### ***Bone Gap*, Laura Ruby — 368 pp**

Told from alternating viewpoints, *Bone Gap* perfectly melds elements of fairy tales, myths, gothic romance, and magic realism into the story of Finn, who lives in a town with gaps in the very fabric of time and place. When young, beautiful Roza went missing, the people of Bone Gap weren't surprised. But Finn knows what really happened to Roza. He knows she was kidnapped by a dangerous man whose face he cannot remember. National Book Award Finalist and 2016 Printz Award Winner.

### ***The Sun is Also a Star*, Nicola Yoon — 384 pp**

It is Natasha's last day in New York City, where she has lived for 10 years. Her family, living as undocumented immigrants in a small Brooklyn apartment, are being deported to Jamaica after her father's arrest for drunk driving. Natasha is scouring the city for a chance to stay in the United States legally. She wants the normal teen existence of her peers. Meanwhile, poetic Daniel is on his way to an interview as part of his application process to Yale. He is under great pressure to get in because his parents (who emigrated from South Korea) are adamant that he become a doctor. When Daniel and Natasha finally meet, he falls in love immediately and convinces her to join him for the day. 2017 Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award for New Talent and 2017 National Book Award Finalist.

### ***In the Country We Love: My Family Divided*, Diane Guerrero and Michelle Burford — 272 pp**

Diane Guerrero was just fourteen years old on the day her parents were detained and deported while she was at school. Born in the U.S., Guerrero was able to remain in the country and continue her education, depending on the kindness of family friends who took her in and helped her build a life and a successful acting career for herself, without the support system of her family. This is a moving, heartbreaking story of one woman's extraordinary resilience in the face of the nightmarish struggles of undocumented residents in this country. 2017 Alex Award Winner.

### ***Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*, Margot Lee Shetterly — 368 pp**

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. Among these problem-solvers were a group of exceptionally talented African American women, some of the brightest minds of their generation. Originally relegated to teaching math in the South's segregated public schools, they were called into service during the labor shortages of World War II, when America's aeronautics industry was in dire need of anyone who had the right stuff. Suddenly, these overlooked math whizzes had a shot at jobs worthy of their skills, and they answered Uncle Sam's call, moving to Hampton, Virginia and the fascinating, high-energy world of the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory.

### ***The Regional Office Is Under Attack!: A Novel*, Manuel Gonzales — 416 pp**

In a world beset by amassing forces of darkness, one organization—the Regional Office—and its coterie of super-powered female assassins protects the globe from annihilation. At its helm, the mysterious Oyemi and her oracles seek out new recruits and root out evil plots. Then a prophecy suggests that someone from inside might bring about its downfall. And now, the Regional Office is under attack. Recruited by a defector from within, Rose is a young assassin leading the attack, eager to stretch into her powers and prove herself on her first mission. Defending the Regional Office is Sarah—who may or may not have a mechanical arm—fiercely devoted to the organization that took her in as a young woman in the wake of her mother's sudden disappearance. On the day that the Regional Office is attacked, Rose's and Sarah's stories will overlap, their lives will collide, and the world as they know it just might end. 2017 Alex Award Winner.

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## Suggestions (continued)

**Americanah, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie — 588 pp**  
Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their love—for each other and for their homeland. 2017 *One Book, One New York* Selection.

**If You Come Softly, Jacqueline Woodson — 224 pp**  
Jeremiah feels good inside his own skin. That is, when he's in his own Brooklyn neighborhood. But now he's going to be attending a fancy prep school in Manhattan, and black teenage boys don't exactly fit in there. So it's a surprise when he meets Ellie the first week of school. In one frozen moment their eyes lock and after that they know they fit together -- even though she's Jewish and he's black. Their worlds are so different, but to them that's not what matters. Too bad the rest of the world has to get in their way. Coretta Scott King Award-winning author.

**The Serpent King, Jeff Zentner — 384 pp**  
Dill isn't the most popular kid at his rural Tennessee high school. After his father fell from grace in a public scandal that reverberated throughout their small town, Dill became a target. Fortunately, his two fellow misfits and best friends, Travis and Lydia, have his back. But as they begin their senior year, Dill feels the coils of his future tightening around him. His only escapes are music and his secret feelings for Lydia--neither of which he is brave enough to share. Graduation feels more like an ending to Dill than a beginning. But even before then, he must cope with another ending — one that will rock his life to the core. 2017 Morris Award Winner.

**Highly Illogical Behavior, John Corey Whaley — 256 pp**  
Solomon Reed, 16, has not left his house in three years. Regular panic attacks keep him from handling the outside. Yet he is a smart and resourceful teenager with a love for Star Trek, gratifying hobbies, and a supportive family. Solomon is being educated online and doesn't feel that any social life he might be missing is worth the mental anguish that daily life causes him to endure. However, he knows he can't live like this forever. Then Lisa Praytor, a vivacious and take-charge extrovert appears, wanting to be his friend. Lisa is convinced that she can treat Solomon's agoraphobia and get him outside. School Library Journal Best Books of 2017.

**Tell Me Three Things, Julie Buxbaum — 352 pp**  
Saying Jessie's new life is weird would be an understatement — after she loses her mother to cancer, her dad sells their house, moves them across the country to live with the woman he eloped with during a business trip, and enrolls her in an elite private school where everyone makes her feel even more like an outsider. Back home Jessie was comfortable: she had both her parents, a house she loved, and friends. Here she feels lost in a sea of designer clothing, expensive cars, and people who spend their summer vacations in faraway countries. When the teen gets an anonymous email from Somebody/Nobody offering to teach her to navigate this new school's territory, she registers how strange the situation may be but replies anyway. Who is this mysterious Somebody/Nobody? School Library Journal Best Books of 2017.

**Arena, Holly Jennings — 400 pp**  
In this riveting story of professional athleticism, players make their names known in the virtual arena rather than the stadium. Their challenges are far from typical: they face opponents and fight in the virtual world with swords and medieval fervor and then slam back into reality. Death feels real, pain echoes even after they unplug, and these athletes cope in the most dangerous of ways. Kali must lead her team to redemption in the arena following a surprising and devastating loss but also keep them alive as they navigate the seedier side of professional gaming after a teammate dies. 2017 Alex Award Winner.

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## Assignments for Special Classes:

Honors Classes	AP Language (11)	AP Literature (12) AND UConn ECE (12)
<p><u>In addition to your one summer reading choice</u>, honors students are expected to read the following:</p> <p>English 9-0: <i>The Alchemist</i>, by Paulo Coelho</p> <p>English 10-0: <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>, by Erich Maria Remarque</p> <p>English 11-0: <i>Outliers</i>, by Malcolm Gladwell</p> <p>English 12-0: <i>We Were Here</i>, by Matt de la Peña</p>	<p>Read <i>Outliers</i> by Malcolm Gladwell. Keep a dialectical journal in which you identify a passage from each of the nine chapters and analyze the language. This must be typed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Read and annotate five articles from <i>The New Yorker</i> magazine or <i>Atlantic Monthly</i> magazine. Choose non-fiction articles (<u>no</u> fiction, blogs, or short side bar articles). Articles should be annotated with copious notes that reveal your close, detailed reading.</p> <p><u>See <a href="http://www.stamfordhigh.org">www.stamfordhigh.org</a> for more specific instructions.</u></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Any reading above and beyond these requirements is optional.</p>	<p>Read ten poems by Robert Frost. Then, write one poem in the style of Frost. This must be typed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Read <i>Invisible Man</i> by Ralph Ellison. Keep a dialectical journal in which you identify and explain fifteen passages (each from a different chapter) that trace the main character's growth on his road to self-reliance. This must be typed.</p> <p><u>See <a href="http://www.stamfordhigh.org">www.stamfordhigh.org</a> for more specific instructions.</u></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Any reading above and beyond these requirements is optional.</p>