

STAMFORD HIGH SUMMER READING 2015

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!

Some Reading Suggestions

***The Impossible Knife of Memory,*
Laurie Halse Anderson – 416 pp**

For the past five years, Hayley Kincaid and her father, Andy, have been on the road, never staying long in one place as he struggles to escape the demons that have tortured him since his return from Iraq. Now they are back in the town where he grew up so Hayley can attend school. Perhaps, for the first time, Hayley can have a normal life and put aside her own painful memories. Will being back home help Andy's PTSD, or will his terrible memories drag him to the edge of hell and push him over?

***Console Wars: Sega, Nintendo, and the Battle that Defined a Generation,* Blake J. Harris – 576 pp**

In 1990, Nintendo had a virtual monopoly on the video game industry. Sega, on the other hand, was just a faltering arcade company with big aspirations and even bigger personalities. But that would all change with the arrival of Tom Kalinske, a man who knew nothing about videogames and everything about fighting uphill battles. His unconventional tactics, combined with the blood, sweat and bold ideas of his renegade employees, transformed Sega and eventually led to a ruthless David-and-Goliath showdown with rival Nintendo.

***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close,* Jonathan Safran Foer – 368 pp**

Nine-year-old Oskar Schell is an inventor, amateur entomologist, Francophile, letter writer, pacifist, natural historian, percussionist, romantic, Great Explorer, jeweller, detective, vegan, and collector of butterflies. When his father is killed in the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, Oskar sets out to solve the mystery of a key he discovers in his father's closet. It is a search which leads him into the lives of strangers, through the five boroughs of New York, into history, to the bombings of Dresden and Hiroshima, and on an inward journey which brings him ever closer to some kind of peace.

***All the Light We Cannot See,* Anthony Doerr – 544 pp**

Marie Laure is a blind 14-year-old French girl who flees to the countryside when her father disappears from Nazi-occupied Paris. Werner is a gadget-obsessed German orphan whose skills admit him to a brutal branch of Hitler Youth. The characters are powerful examples of the way average people in trying times must decide daily between morality and survival. 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction Award Winner.

***Guns, Germs, and Steel,* Jared Diamond – 496 pp**

How did differences in societies arise? Why weren't native Australians, Americans, or Africans the ones to colonize Europe? Jared Diamond encompasses the rise of agriculture, technology, writing, government, and religion, providing a unifying theory of human history as intriguing as the histories of dinosaurs and glaciers.

***Everything I Never Told You,* Celeste Ng – 298 pp**

Lydia, a young girl living in 1970's small-town Ohio, is dead. Is it murder? Suicide? As her family grieves for their perfect teen, they learn how little they really knew Lydia and how many secrets died with her in this profoundly moving story of family, history, and the meaning of home. 2015 Alex Award Winner.

***The Name of the Wind,* Patrick Rothfuss – 722 pp**

This is the riveting first-person narrative of a young man who grows to be the most notorious magician his world has ever seen. From his childhood in a troupe of traveling players, to years spent as a near-feral orphan in a crime-ridden city, to his daringly brazen yet successful bid to enter a legendary school of magic, this book transports readers into the body and mind of a wizard. It is a high-action novel written with a poet's hand, a powerful coming-of-age story of a magically gifted young man, told through his eyes: to read this book is to be the hero.

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Suggestions (continued)

***The Crossover*, Kwame Alexander – 240 pp**

The Bell twins are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life. Both twins adhere to the Bell basketball rules: In this game of life, your family is the court, and the ball is your heart. With a former professional basketball player dad and an assistant principal mom, there is an intensely strong home front supporting sports and education in equal measures. When life intervenes in the form of a new girl, the balance shifts and growing apart proves painful. 2015 Coretta Scott King Honor Award Winner.

***The Martian*, Andy Weir – 387 pp**

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive — and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive. Chances are, though, he won't have time to starve to death. The damaged machinery, unforgiving environment, or plain-old "human error" are much more likely to kill him first. But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. 2015 Alex Award Winner.

***How It Went Down*, Kekla Magoon – 336 pp**

When 16-year-old Tariq, a black teen, is shot and killed by a white man, every witness has a slightly different perception of the chain of events leading up to the murder. Family, friends, gang members, neighbors, and a well-meaning but self-serving minister make up the broad cast of characters. The police bring their own personal biases to their investigation of the case. When all points of view are combined, the story of a young man emerges and with it, a narrative that plays out in communities across the country every day. Heartbreaking and engaging, this is an important book about perception and race. 2015 Coretta Scott King Award Winner.

***The Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan*, Jenny Nordberg – 384 pp**

In Afghanistan, a culture ruled almost entirely by men, the birth of a son is cause for celebration and the arrival of a daughter is a misfortune. A bacha posh (translated as “dressed up like a boy”) is a third kind of child – a girl temporarily raised as a boy and presented as such to the outside world. This book constructs a powerful account of those secretly living on the other side of a deeply segregated society. 2015 J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize Winner.

***Lock In*, John Scalzi – 337 pp**

A virus leaves millions with Hadens syndrome — locked in and fully aware, but unable to move or speak except when linked to androids. Chris is one of them, working as a rookie FBI agent hunting a murderer who is targeting Hadens. 2015 Alex Award Winner.

***Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream*, Joshua Davis – 241 pp**

In 2004, four Latino teenagers arrived at the Marine Advanced Technology Education Robotics Competition at the University of California. They were born in Mexico but raised in Arizona, where they attended an underfunded public high school. No one had ever suggested to them that they might amount to much -- but two inspiring science teachers had convinced these impoverished kids from the desert who had never even seen the ocean that they should try to build an underwater robot. 2015 Alex Award Nominee.

***We Were Liars*, E. Lockhart – 240 pp**

Cadence Sinclair Easton comes from an old-money family, headed by a patriarch who owns a private island off of Cape Cod. Each summer, the extended family gathers on the island, and Cadence and her cousins have been inseparable since age eight. Then, Cadence suffers a mysterious accident and she spends the next two years trying to piece together just what happened.

Assignments for Special Classes:

| Honors Classes | AP Language (11) | AP Literature (12) |
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| <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>The Heretic's Daughter</i>, by Kathleen Kent</p> <p>English 12-0: <i>We Were Here</i>, by Matt de la Peña</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>AND</p> <p>Read <i>The Essays of E.B. White</i>. For each essay, keep a journal in which you a) write down White's purpose for that essay (in other words, what is White's point?) and b) write down and briefly explain one key quotation that speaks to that purpose. This must be typed.</p> <p>See www.stamfordhigh.org for more specific instructions.</p> <p>Note: 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>AND</p> <p>Read <i>Invisible Man</i> by Ralph Ellison. Keep a dialectical notebook 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>See www.stamfordhigh.org for more specific instructions.</p> <p>Note: Any reading above and beyond these requirements is optional.</p> |