

Students are required to read one required book and one book of choice. There will be an assignment on these books that will be done in class at the start of the new school year.

**Required Reading:** *Night*, by Elie Wiesel

**Suggested Readings for Choice Book:**

**Kit's Wilderness**, by David Almond

The Watson family moves to Stoneygate, an old coal-mining town, to care for Kit's recently widowed grandfather. It is there that Kit meets John Askew, another boy whose family had both worked and died in the mines. Askew invites Kit to join him in playing a game called Death. Kit's association with Askew takes him into the mines where the boys look to find the childhood ghosts of their long-gone ancestors.

**How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents**, by Julia Alvarez

This is a sensitive story of four sisters, who must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic. It is told through a series of episodes beginning in adulthood, when their lives have been shaped by U.S. mores, and moves backwards to their wealthy childhood on the island.

**Hope Was Here**, by Joan Bauer

What happens when a saucy, optimistic teenager and a terrific short-order diner cook head to Mulhoney, Wisconsin? Great apple pie, a killer mayoral election, and a heartfelt story about life in a rural town.

**Many Stones**, by Carolyn Coman

Berry Morgan's father isn't around much since the divorce, until the day he shows up at Berry's school to tell her that her sister Laura is dead. While working as a volunteer at a school in Capetown, South Africa, Laura had been brutally murdered. A year and a half later, he arranges a two-week trip to South Africa, with Berry reluctantly in tow, to attend a memorial service at the school where Laura had worked. Their painful journey forces them to look beyond their own grieving and bear witness to a country's tortured search for peace and reconciliation.

**Both Sides of Time**, by Caroline B. Cooney

Meet 15-year-old Annie Lockwood, a romantic living in the wrong century. When she travels back a hundred years and lands in 1895—a time when privileged young ladies wear magnificent gowns, attend elegant parties, and are courted by handsome gentlemen—Annie at last finds romance. However, she is a trespasser in time. Will she choose to stay in the past? Will she be allowed to?

**The Power of One**, by Bryce Courtney

The Power of One is the moving story of one young man's search for the love that binds friends, the passion that binds lovers, and the realization that it takes only one to change the world. A weak and friendless boy growing up in South Africa during World War II, Peekay turns to two older men, one black and one white, to show him how to find the courage to dream, to succeed, and to triumph over a world when all seems lost.

**The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens**, by Sean Covey

In an entertaining style, Covey provides a step-by-step guide to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve goals, get along with their parents, and much more. In addition, this book is stuffed with cartoons, quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world.

**Walk Two Moons** by Sharon Creech

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

**The Wanderer**, by Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat. They, along with uncles and another cousin, are en route to visit their grandfather in England.

**Children of the River**, by Linda Crew

Having fled Cambodia four years earlier to escape the Khmer Rouge army, seventeen-year-old Sundara is torn between remaining faithful to her own people and enjoying life in her Oregon high school as a "regular" American.

**Whale Talk**, by Chris Crutcher

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school. This avoidance of sports changes when he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

**The Lullaby**, by Sarah Dessen

Raised by a mother who's had five husbands, eighteen-year-old Remy believes in short-term, no-commitment relationships until she meets Dexter, a rock band musician.

**Night Hoops**, by Carl Deuker

While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

**Nervous Conditions**, by Tsitsi Dangaremba

Nervous Conditions is a wrenching chronicle of the coming of age of Tambu, a teenage girl in 1960s Rhodesia, and her relationship with her British-educated cousin, Nyasha. Tambu yearns to be free of the constraints of her rural village. She thinks her dreams have come true when her wealthy uncle offers to sponsor her education, but education at his mission school comes with a price. There she meets sophisticated Nyasha, whose rebellion against her father brings disaster. With irony and skill, Dangaremba explores the struggle of two young women trying to liberate themselves in a society still suffering the effects of colonization.

**The River Why**, by David James Duncan

Gus Orviston's search for the Pacific Northwest's elusive steelhead fish becomes a hunt for self-knowledge. It appeals to all who cherish a good yarn and memorable characters.

**The Bride Price**, by Buchi Emecheta

Emecheta tells the story of a young Nigerian girl "whose life is complicated by traditional attitudes toward women," wrote Richard Cima in Library Journal. The young girl's father dies when she is thirteen, and with her brother and mother she becomes the property of her father's ambitious brother. She is permitted to remain in school only because it will increase her value as a potential wife. However, she falls in love with her teacher, a descendant of slaves [...]"

**Whirligig**, by Paul Fleischman

Vapid, self-absorbed, status-conscious Brent attends a party at which he suffers a very public rejection by the girl he's been lusting after. Drunk, furious, and unable to deal with his humiliation, he tries to kill himself on the trip home, but his reckless driving kills a stranger instead: a lovely, talented, motivated, high school senior. Though Brent's parents would like to minimize his sense of guilt and his punishment, Brent himself is tormented and longs to make some restitution. The court arranges a meeting with his victim's mother, who asks Brent to "make four whirligigs, of a girl that looks like Lea.... Then set them up in Washington, California, Florida, and Maine ..."

**Alas, Babylon**, by Pat Frank

In Fort Repose, a river town in Central Florida, an early December Friday dawns warm and peaceful. There are rumblings of potential crises from the outsideworld, but the citizens of Fort Repose bask in their small town peacefulness. Then, Randy Brag receives a Western Union cable from his older brother, a colonel in the Strategic Air Command. The cable includes a code phrase used by the brothers since childhood to indicate disaster: "Alas, Babylon." Randy correctly concludes that nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union is, in fact, imminent.

**The Thief Lord**, by Cornelia Funke

Set in modern-day Venice, the book follows a troupe of runaways who partake in theft and resell their goods to a local shopkeeper. Two members - Prosper and his little brother, Bo - are being followed by Victor, a detective hired by their mean aunt, but luckily, they and the other kids are watched over by the gang's mysterious and self-assured leader, Scipio (the Thief Lord). As the kids have several run-ins with the sleuth, they're also focused on Scipio's new job to steal a precious wooden carousel wing. Yet when they discover a few skeletons in the Thief Lord's closet and befriend Victor, they realize there is more to their fantastic world than meets the eye.

**Inside Pitch: Life in Professional Baseball**, by George Gmelch

The author provides an overview of the whole process of becoming a professional ballplayer, from the time a player emerges as an amateur until he leaves the profession.

**Wait Until Next Year: A Memoir**, by Doris Kearns Goodwin

An exploration of the author's childhood and the stories that defined her parents' lives, this tenderly written memoir covers the history of the Brooklyn Dodgers, as well as the bleaker events of the mid-century.

**Stepping on the Cracks**, by Mary Downing Hahn

In 1944, eleven-year-old Margaret's brother is overseas fighting in World War II. She gets a new view of the school bully Gordy when she finds him hiding his own brother, an army deserter, and decides to help him.

**As Ever, Gordy**, by Mary Downing Hahn

When he and his younger sister move in with their older brother after their grandmother dies, thirteen-year-old Gordy finds himself caught between the boy he was when he lived with his abusive father and the boy his grandmother was helping him become.

**Pre: The Story of America's Greatest Running Legend, Steve Prefontaine**

by Tom Jordan

This book traces the life of the first person to win four NCAA titles in one event. The story opens by describing his humble origins in Coos Bay, Oregon. It concludes with the tragic, shocking end of a life and career.

**What Became of Herm**, by M.E. Kerr

In Serenity, Pennsylvania, everyone wondered what would become of Rose Fitch, and then they forgot about her, the way you put bad news out of your head. On the contrary, Rose never let herself forget about them...and now she's back and rich.

**The Bean Trees**, by Barbara Kingsolver

Clear-eyed and spirited, Taylor Greer grew up poor in rural Kentucky with the goals of avoiding pregnancy and getting away. But when she heads west with high hopes and a barely functional car, she meets the human condition head-on. By the time Taylor arrives in Tucson, Arizona, she has acquired a completely unexpected child, a three-year-old American Indian girl named Turtle, and must somehow come to terms with both motherhood and the necessity of putting down roots. Hers is a story about love and friendship, abandonment and belonging, and the discovery of surprising resources in apparently empty places.

**The View from Saturday**, by E.L. Konigsburg

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

**Welcome to the Great Mysterious**, by Lorna Landvik

Although she is a Broadway star, self-centered Geneva Jordan has butterflies in her stomach when she grudgingly travels to Minnesota. She is going to take care of her 13-year-old nephew Rich who has Downs Syndrome, while her sister and brother-in-law take a month-long vacation in Italy.

**Isaac's Storm: A Man, A Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History**, by Erik Larson

On September 8, 1900, a massive hurricane slammed into Galveston, Texas. A tidal surge of some four feet in as many seconds inundated the city, while the wind destroyed thousands of buildings and thousands of lives - making this the worst natural disaster in America's history.

**China Boy**, by Gus Lee

Warm, funny, and deeply moving, Gus Lee's semi-autobiographical account of growing up in a conflict-ridden family, unable to fully embrace either American or Chinese culture, is an enthralling story of family relationships, the perils of boyhood, and the difficulty of being Chinese in 1950's San Francisco.

**Troubling a Star**, by Madeline L'Engle

As she tries to stay alive after being left on an iceberg in the Antarctic, sixteen-year-old Vicky recalls the series of events that brought her to the bottom of the world and involved her in a dangerous mystery.

**Gold Dust**, by Chris Lynch

In 1975, twelve-year-old Richard befriends Napoleon, a Caribbean newcomer to his Catholic school. He hopes that Napoleon will learn to love baseball and the Red Sox, and will win acceptance in the racially polarized Boston school.

**The Girls of Summer: The U.S. Women's Soccer Team and How It Changed the World,** by Jere Longman

Framed around the final game of the 1999 Women's World Cup in the Rose Bowl (in which the United States beat China on penalty kicks after two scoreless hours), this book by New York Times sports writer Longman ventures off the field to discuss such topics as the rise of women's sports, women's soccer in Muslim countries, and the athletes' sex appeal.

**The Sound of Waves,** by Yukio Mishima (Translated by Meredith Weatherby)

Set in a remote fishing village in Japan, *The Sound of Waves* is a timeless story of first love. It tells of Shinji, a young fisherman, and Hatsue, the beautiful daughter of the wealthiest man in the village. Shinji is entranced at the sight of Hatsue in the twilight on the beach, upon her return from another island, where she had been training to be a pearl diver. They fall in love, but must then endure the calumny and gossip of the villagers.

**Schoolgirls: Young Women, Self-Esteem, and the Confidence,** by Peggy Orenstein

Orenstein plunges into the minds of both boys and girls who have learned to equate masculinity with opportunity and assertiveness and femininity with reserve and restraint. She demonstrates the cost of this insidious lesson, by taking us into the lives of real young women who are struggling with eating disorders, sexual harassment, and declining academic achievement, especially in math and science.

**Peeling the Onion,** by Wendy Orr

Following an automobile accident in which her neck is broken, a teenage karate champion begins a long and painful recovery with the help of her family.

**Houseboy,** by Ferdinand Oyono

This book is written in the form of a diary kept by Toundi, an innocent Cameroonian houseboy who is fascinated and awed by the white world, the world of his masters.

**Are You in the House Alone?,** by Richard Peck

A sixteen-year-old girl with a steady boyfriend suddenly begins receiving threatening phone calls while she is babysitting and anonymous notes in her high school locker.

**A Year Down Yonder,** by Richard Peck

Mary Alice and Grandma Dowdel return for more astonishing, laugh-out-loud adventures when fifteen-year-old Mary Alice moves in with her spicy grandmother for the year. Her extended visit is filled with moonlit schemes, romances both foiled and founded, and a whole parade of fools made to suffer in unusual (and always hilarious) ways.

**Eragon, (Inheritance Trilogy #1) by Christopher Paolini**

Teen author Christopher Paolini breathes fire into the realm of fantasy - whisking readers to a world of dragons, magic and legends - in his first impressive entry in the Inheritance trilogy. Following in the footsteps of J.R.R. Tolkien and Terry Goodkind, Paolini recounts the harrowing adventure of Eragon, a peasant boy who one day discovers a strange rock that happens to be a lost, coveted dragon's egg. Eragon finds himself raising the highly intelligent creature (which he names Saphira) and bonds with her both mentally and soulfully, but after a team of marauders sent by the land's conniving ruler destroys his family home and kills his uncle, the boy sets out to hone his skills as a Rider and claim his vengeance. Paolini pays meticulous attention to detail and to the characters' actions in the book, letting readers travel eagerly with the young hero along every step of his journey. Sure to sit memorably with lovers of the genre and worthy of every bit of praise it gets, Paolini's foray into fantasy writing will transfix and entertain.

**Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen**

Thirteen-year-old, Brian Robeson is the only passenger in a small plane when the pilot has a heart attack and dies. The plane drifts off course and finally crashes into a small lake. Miraculously, Brian is able to swim free of the plane. He arrives on a sandy tree-lined shore with only his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother had given him as a present. The novel chronicles in gritty detail Brian's mistakes, setbacks, and small triumphs as, with the help of the hatchet, he manages to survive the 54 days alone in the wilderness.

**Define "Normal", by Julie Anne Peters**

Antonia is a "priss," Jazz is a "punk." Antonia belongs to the math club. Jazz hangs out at the tattoo parlor. Antonia's parents are divorced and her mother struggles to pay the rent. Jazz is from a traditional family and lives in a mansion with a pool. But when these two very different girls find themselves facing each other in a peer-counseling program, they discover they have some surprising things in common. Alternately hilarious and heart-wrenching, this is an absorbing read that will keep audiences thinking and laughing.

**The Chosen, by Chaim Potok**

This is the odyssey from boyhood to manhood for two Jewish boys amidst the conflict between generations and religious traditions.

**The Koufax Dilemma, by Steven Schnur**

Angry when he cannot pitch in the season's opening game because of Passover, Danny finally makes some important decisions about loyalty to his divorced parents, his team, his heritage, and himself.

**The Unprotected Witness**, by James Stevenson

After the murder of his father, who has been hiding under the Witness Protection Program, Pete finds himself the target of sinister men. They seem to think he knows where a large sum of money is hidden.

**Nobody Else Has to Know**, by Ingrid Tomez

Fifteen-year-old Webber must either live with guilt or tell the truth about who was driving his grandfather's car when it struck and seriously injured a little girl.

**The Samurai's Garden**, by Gail Tsukiyama

The author of *Women of the Silk* has created a small, moving masterpiece. This new novel centers on a young Chinese man visiting Japan and his relationship with four local residents. What ensues is a tale that readers will find at once classical yet utterly unique.

**Picture Bride**, by Yoshiko Uchida

Hana Omiya's life is changed when she travels from Japan to San Francisco, California as a "picture bride". The year is 1917 and Hana is selected by her unknown husband based on a photograph.

**Homeless Bird**, by Gloria Whelan

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated, arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

**Briar Rose**, by Jane Yolen

This powerful and moving novel deftly blends the legend of Sleeping Beauty with the historical tragedy of the Holocaust. After her grandmother's death, a young American woman struggles to uncover the truth behind the old woman's past. The trail eventually leads to Europe and the darkest days of WWII.

**The Gadget**, by Paul Zindel

It's 1945, and 13-year-old Stephen has just reached the gates of the top secret military base in Los Alamos, New Mexico. He has come to join his father, a famous physicist who is working on a covert project for the Allies. Though his father is forbidden to discuss the project in any detail, Stephen can tell by his haunted eyes and shaking hands how worried he and the other scientists are. After a few weeks, Stephen finds that he cannot control his insatiable curiosity. Enlisting the help of his new friend Tilanov, Stephen devises a plan to discover the true nature of "the gadget." Unfortunately, when he finally learns what it is, he also realizes another startling truth--that he has trusted the wrong person with the information and not only his life, but the lives of all Americans, could be in terrible danger.