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**Young Adult Fiction**

- [\*Thirteen Reasons Why\* by Jay Asher](#)
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- [\*The Radius of Us\* by Marie Marquart](#)

**NON-FICTION****Art History**

- [\*Who's Afraid of Contemporary Art?\* By Kyung An & Jessica Cerasi\\*](#)

**Biography and Memoir**

- [\*This Star Won't Go Out: The Life and Words of Esther Grace Earl\* by Esther Earl, Lori and Wayne Earl](#)
- [\*Between the World and Me\* by Ta-Nehisi Coates\\*](#)
- [\*The Last Lecture\*, by Randy Pausch](#)
- [\*The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace\* by Jeff Hobbs](#)
- [\*Basketball Junkie\* by Chris Herren and Bill Reynolds](#)
- [\*Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism\*](#)
- [\*Bossypants\* by Tina Fey](#)
- [\*Legend: The Incredible Story of Green Beret Sergeant Roy Benavidez's Heroic\*](#)

[Mission to Rescue a Special Forces Team Caught Behind Enemy Lines by Eric Blehm\\*](#)

- [Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom](#)
- [H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald](#)
- [The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story by Diane Ackerman](#)
- [Papi: My Story by David Ortiz with Michael Holley](#)
- [Restless Spirit: the Unconventional Raising of a Champion by Missy Franklin](#)
- [The Freedom Writers Diary by Erin Gruwell & The Freedom Writers](#)

### **Travel/Adventure**

- [Travel as a Political Act by Rick Steves](#)
- [The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain by Bill Bryson](#)

### **Political Science**

- [Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu: And Their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts by Joshua Hammer\\*](#)
- [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration](#)

[in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander\\*](#)

### **True Crime**

- [Blood Will Out: The True Story of a Murder, a Mystery, and a Masquerade by Walter Kirn\\*](#)

### **Personal Growth/Self-Help/Motivational**

- [Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work by Matt Crawford](#)
- [The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom by Miguel Ruiz](#)
- [10% Happier: How I Tamed the Voice in My Head, Reduced Stress Without Losing My Edge, and Found Self-Help That Actually Works by Dan Harris\\*](#)
- [Beyond Measure: Rescuing an Overscheduled, Overtested, and Underestimated Generation by Vicki Abeles](#)

### **Biological Science**

- [Silent Spring By Rachel Carson](#)

Dear Walpole High Students:

This year we are offering over fifty titles from which to choose; some of the titles were student suggestions. We hope that each student finds a title he or she can get excited about reading!

All students **must** read one book chosen from the list.

During the Summer Reading day selected in September, you will:

- Meet with a group of students and at least one staff member who read the same book
- Provide a written response to a prompt
- Engage in a discussion of the book

Based on your written response and your participation in the discussion, you will receive a PASS/FAIL grade. Your participation in the Summer Reading program will be recorded on your official Walpole High School transcript and a passing grade will be worth 0.5 credits.

**A FAILING grade will keep you off of the Honor Roll for first quarter.**

We recommend you take brief reading notes (no more than one side of a sheet of paper) while you read. You may bring both the book and the page of notes to your Summer Reading group.

PLEASE NOTE: Books with mature themes are limited to students who will be juniors or seniors and are marked with an \*.

A note to parents: Our goal is to create a community of readers. We have selected books that we as teachers enjoy reading. We hope that by providing students a forum for reading, sharing, and discussing books that most interest them, they will find reading a pleasurable experience. We have identified books with mature themes and have restricted their selection to juniors and seniors; if you want more information about a book before your son or daughter selects it, please go to [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com), [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com), or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) to read their on-line reviews. Reading can be a family activity; we encourage family members to read along and discuss the book selected. Reading provides pleasure as well as intellectual growth.

The Walpole Public Library and the Walpole Barnes and Noble should have most of these titles available.

For a brief description of each summer reading title, click on the [Summer Reading Program link](#) on the [Walpole High School website](#).

**FICTION****Classic Literature****Pride and Prejudice, by Jane Austen****Sponsored by: Ms. Kay****Reading Level: Intermediate****Mature Themes: No**

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife." So begins *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen's witty comedy of manners—one of the most popular novels of all time—that features splendidly civilized sparring between the proud Mr. Darcy and the prejudiced Elizabeth Bennet as they play out their spirited courtship in a series of eighteenth-century drawing-room intrigues.

[\[back to list\]](#)***Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene\*****Sponsored by: Mr. Cashman****Reading Level: Difficult****Mature Themes: Yes**

A gang war is raging through the dark underworld of Brighton. Pinkie, malign and ruthless, has killed a man. Believing he can escape retribution, he is unprepared for the courageous Ida Arnold, who is determined to avenge a death. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Contemporary Literature*****The Princess Bride* by William Goldman****Sponsored by: Ms. O'Leary****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: No**

What happens when the most beautiful girl in the world marries the handsomest prince of all time and he turns out to be...well...a lot less than the man of her dreams? As a boy, William Goldman claims, he loved to hear his father read the S. Morgenstern classic, *The Princess Bride*. But as a grown-up he discovered that the boring parts were left out of good old Dad's recitation, and only the "good parts" reached his ears. Now Goldman does Dad one better. He's reconstructed the "Good Parts Version" to delight wise kids and wide-eyed grownups everywhere. What's it about? Fencing. Fighting. True Love. Strong Hate. Harsh Revenge. A Few Giants. Lots of Bad Men. Lots of Good Men. Five or Six Beautiful Women. Beasties Monstrous and Gentle. Some Swell Escapes and Captures. Death, Lies, Truth, Miracles, and a Little Sex. In short, it's about everything.

[\[back to list\]](#)***Maybe in Another Life* by Taylor Jenkins Reid****Sponsored by: Ms. Gould****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: No**

At the age of twenty-nine, Hannah Martin still has no idea what she wants to do with her life. She has lived in six different cities and held countless meaningless jobs since graduating college. On the heels of leaving yet another city, Hannah moves back to her hometown of Los Angeles and takes up residence in her best friend Gabby's guestroom. Shortly after getting back to town, Hannah goes out to a bar one night with Gabby and meets up with her high school boyfriend, Ethan. Just after midnight, Gabby asks Hannah if she's ready to go. A moment later, Ethan offers to give her a ride later if she wants to stay. Hannah hesitates. What happens if she leaves with Gabby? What happens if she leaves with Ethan. In concurrent storylines, Hannah lives out the effects of each decision. Quickly, these parallel universes develop into radically different stories with large-scale consequences for Hannah, as well as the people around her. As the two alternate realities run their course, *Maybe in Another Life* raises questions about fate and true love: Is anything meant to be? How much

in our life is determined by chance? And perhaps, most compellingly: Is there such a thing as a soul mate? Hannah believes there is. And, in both worlds, she believes she's found him. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Feed by MT Anderson**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Osborne**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

Identity crises, consumerism, and star-crossed teenage love in a futuristic society where people connect to the Internet via feeds implanted in their brains. For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon - a chance to party during spring break and play with some stupid low-grav at the Ricochet Lounge. But that was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed and its omnipresent ability to categorize human thoughts and desires. Following in the footsteps of George Orwell, Anthony Burgess, and Kurt Vonnegut Jr., M. T. Anderson has created a not-so-brave new world — and a smart, savage satire that has captivated readers with its view of an imagined future that veers unnervingly close to the here and now. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Since We Fell by Dennis Lehane\***

**Sponsored by: Mr. O'Malley**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: Yes**

*Since We Fell* follows Rachel Childs, a former journalist who, after an on-air mental breakdown, now lives as a virtual shut-in. In all other respects, however, she enjoys an ideal life with an ideal husband. Until a chance encounter on a rainy afternoon causes that ideal life to fray. As does Rachel's marriage. As does Rachel herself. Sucked into a conspiracy thick with deception, violence, and possibly madness, Rachel must find the strength within herself to conquer unimaginable fears and mind-altering truths. By turns heartbreaking, suspenseful, romantic, and sophisticated, *Since We Fell* is a novel of profound psychological insight and tension. It is Dennis Lehane at his very best. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Note from Mr. O'Malley: This is a new release - only available in Hardcover (\$16.79 on Amazon)**

**The Miseducation of Cameron Post by Emily M. Danforth**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Reichheld**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

When Cameron Post's parents die suddenly in a car crash, her shocking first thought is relief. Relief they'll never know that, hours earlier, she had been kissing a girl. But that relief doesn't last, and Cam is soon forced to move in with her conservative aunt Ruth and her well-intentioned but hopelessly old-fashioned grandmother. She knows that from this point on, her life will forever be different. Survival in Miles City, Montana, means blending in and leaving well enough alone (as her grandmother might say), and Cam becomes an expert at both. Then Coley Taylor moves to town. Beautiful, pickup-driving Coley is a perfect cowgirl with the perfect boyfriend to match. She and Cam forge an unexpected and intense friendship — one that seems to leave room for something more to emerge. But just as that starts to seem like a real possibility, ultrareligious Aunt Ruth takes drastic action to 'fix' her niece, bringing Cam face-to-face with the cost of denying her true self — even if she's not exactly sure who that is. *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* is a stunning and unforgettable literary debut about discovering who you are and finding the courage to live life according to your own rules.

**Note from Ms. Reichheld: This book has GLBT themes.**  [\[back to list\]](#)

**The One and Only by Emily Griffin**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Schwartz**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

Thirty-three-year-old Shea Rigsby has spent her entire life in Walker, Texas—a small college town that lives and dies by football, a passion she unabashedly shares. Raised alongside her best friend, Lucy, the daughter of Walker's legendary head coach, Clive Carr, Shea was too devoted to her hometown team to leave. Instead

\*Grades 11 & 12 Only

she stayed in Walker for college, even taking a job in the university athletic department after graduation, where she has remained for more than a decade. But when an unexpected tragedy strikes the tight-knit Walker community, Shea's comfortable world is upended, and she begins to wonder if the life she's chosen is really enough for her. As she finally gives up her safety net to set out on an unexpected path, Shea discovers unsettling truths about the people and things she has always trusted most—and is forced to confront her deepest desires, fears, and secrets. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Note from Ms Schwartz: From the author of *Something Borrowed***

***My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Baumgartner**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

Elsa is seven years old and different. Her grandmother is seventy-seven years old and crazy, standing-on-the-balcony-firing-paintball-guns-at-men-who-want-to-talk-about-Jesus-crazy. She is also Elsa's best, and only, friend. At night Elsa takes refuge in her grandmother's stories, in the Land of Almost-Awake and the Kingdom of Miamas where everybody is different and nobody needs to be normal. When Elsa's grandmother dies and leaves behind a series of letters apologizing to people she has wronged, Elsa's greatest adventure begins. Her grandmother's letters lead her to an apartment building full of drunks, monsters, attack dogs, and totally ordinary old crones, but also to the truth about fairytales and kingdoms and a grandmother like no other.

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***The Baron in the Trees* by Italo Calvino**

**Sponsored by: Mr. Bakale**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: No**

Cosimo, a young eighteenth-century Italian nobleman, rebels by climbing into the trees to remain there for the rest of his life. He adapts efficiently to an arboreal existence and even has love affairs. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

**Sponsored by: Ms Kerr**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: No**

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 passion—for each other and for their homeland.

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***The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Wilson**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

*The Namesake* takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the vexed results of bringing old ways to the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd, antic name. Lahiri brings great empathy to Gogol as he stumbles along the first-generation path, strewn with conflicting loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs. With penetrating insight, she reveals not only the defining power of the names and expectations bestowed upon us by our parents, but also the means by which we slowly, sometimes painfully, come to define ourselves. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Horror/Mystery/Thriller*****IT* by Stephen King\*****Sponsored by: Ms. Giblin****Reading Level: Intermediate****Mature Themes: Yes**

To the children, the town was their whole world. To the adults, knowing better, Derry, Maine was just their hometown: familiar, well-ordered for the most part. A good place to live. It was the children who saw - and felt - what made Derry so horribly different. In the storm drains, in the sewers, IT lurked, taking on the shape of every nightmare, each one's deepest dread. Sometimes IT reached up, seizing, tearing, killing . . . The adults, knowing better, knew nothing. Time passed and the children grew up, moved away. The horror of IT was deep-buried, wrapped in forgetfulness. Until they were called back, once more to confront IT as IT stirred and coiled in the sullen depths of their memories, reaching up again to make their past nightmares a terrible present reality. **Note from Ms. Giblin: A movie adaptation is coming out this fall (after the test)! Also, reading Stephen King can cause nightmares. Some of the content may be disturbing.**

[\[back to list\]](#)***The Melody Lingers On* by Mary Higgins Clark****Sponsored by: Ms. Fontaine****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: No**

As the sole assistant to a famous upscale interior designer, Lane Harmon, mother to five-year-old Katie, is accustomed to visiting opulent homes around the tri-state area. A born optimist, Lane finds the glimpse into these gilded worlds fascinating, and loves the reward of exceeding the expectations of their often-demanding owners. When she is called to assist in redecorating a modest townhouse in Bergen County, she knows the job is unusual. Then she learns the home belongs to the wife of a notorious and disgraced financier named Parker Bennett. Parker Bennett has been missing for two years. He dropped out of sight just before it was discovered that the \$5 billion dollars in the fund he had been managing had vanished. Bennett had gone out on his sailboat in the Caribbean. Was it suicide or had he staged his disappearance? The scandal around his name has not died down. His clients and the federal government all want to trace the money and find Bennett if he is still alive. Lane is surprised to find herself moved by Mrs. Bennett's calm dignity and apparently sincere belief in her husband's innocence. Gradually, Lane finds herself drawn to Eric, the Bennetts' son, who is similarly determined to prove that his father is not guilty. Lane doesn't know that the closer she gets to the Bennetts, the more she puts her life—and her daughter's life—in jeopardy. [\[back to list\]](#)

***The Hit* by David Baldacci\*****Sponsored by: Mr. Murphy****Reading Level: Intermediate****Mature Themes: Yes**

Will Robie is a master of killing. A highly skilled assassin, Robie is the man the U.S. government calls on to eliminate the worst of the worst-enemies of the state, monsters committed to harming untold numbers of innocent victims. No one else can match Robie's talents as a hitman...no one, except Jessica Reel. A fellow assassin, equally professional and dangerous, Reel is every bit as lethal as Robie. And now, she's gone rogue, turning her gun sights on other members of their agency. To stop one of their own, the government looks again to Will Robie. His mission: bring in Reel, dead or alive. Only a killer can catch another killer, they tell him. But as Robie pursues Reel, he quickly finds that there is more to her betrayal than meets the eye. Her attacks on the agency conceal a larger threat, a threat that could send shockwaves through the U.S. government and around the world. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Room by Emma Donoghue\*****Sponsored by: Ms. Murray****Reading Level: Intermediate****Mature Themes: Yes**

To five-year-old Jack, *Room* is the entire world. It is where he was born and grew up; it's where he lives with his Ma as they learn and read and eat and sleep and play. At night, his Ma shuts him safely in the wardrobe, where he is meant to be asleep when Old Nick visits. *Room* is home to Jack, but to Ma, it is the prison where Old Nick has held her captive for seven years. Through determination, ingenuity, and fierce motherly love, Ma has created a life for Jack. But she knows it's not enough...not for her or for him. She devises a bold escape plan, one that relies on her young son's bravery and a lot of luck. What she does not realize is just how unprepared she is for the plan to actually work. Told entirely in the language of the energetic, pragmatic five-year-old Jack, *Room* is a celebration of resilience and the limitless bond between parent and child, a brilliantly executed novel about what it means to journey from one world to another. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Historical Fiction*****The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead\*****Sponsored by: Mr. Gitkind + Ms. Swain****Reading Level: Difficult****Mature Themes: Yes**

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hellish for all the slaves but especially bad for Cora; an outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is coming into womanhood - where even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Matters do not go as planned and, though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted. In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor - engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora and Caesar's first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven - but the city's placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its black denizens. Even worse: Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher, is close on their heels. Forced to flee again, Cora embarks on a harrowing flight, state by state, seeking true freedom. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. *The Underground Railroad* is at once a kinetic adventure tale of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history we all share. [\[back to list\]](#)

***The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair****Sponsored by: Phil Balkus****Reading Level: Intermediate****Mature Themes: No**

Upton Sinclair's dramatic and deeply moving story exposed the brutal conditions in the Chicago stockyards at the turn of the nineteenth century and brought into sharp moral focus the appalling odds against which immigrants and other working people struggled for their share of the American dream. Denounced by the conservative press as an un-American libel on the meatpacking industry, this book was championed by more progressive thinkers, including then president Theodore Roosevelt, and was a major catalyst to the passing of the Pure Food and Meat Inspection act, which has tremendous impact to this day. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys****Sponsored by: Ms. Sullivan****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: No**

Lina is just like any other fifteen-year-old Lithuanian girl in 1941. She paints, she draws, she gets crushes on boys. Until one night when Soviet officers barge into her home, tearing her family from the comfortable life they've known. Separated from her father, forced onto a crowded and dirty train car, Lina, her mother, and her

\*Grades 11 &amp; 12 Only

young brother slowly make their way north, crossing the Arctic Circle, to a work camp in the coldest reaches of Siberia. Here they are forced, under Stalin's orders, to dig for beets and fight for their lives under the cruelest of conditions. Lina finds solace in her art, meticulously--and at great risk--documenting events by drawing, hoping these messages will make their way to her father's prison camp to let him know they are still alive. It is a long and harrowing journey, spanning years and covering 6,500 miles, but it is through incredible strength, love, and hope that Lina ultimately survives. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Time and Again* by Jack Finney**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Lerner**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: No**

One of the most beloved tales of our time!

Science fiction, mystery, a passionate love story, and a detailed history of Old New York blend together in Jack Finney's spellbinding story of a young man enlisted in a secret Government experiment. Transported from the mid-twentieth century to New York City in the year 1882, Si Morley walks the fashionable "Ladies' Mile" of Broadway, is enchanted by the jingling sleigh bells in Central Park, and solves a 20th-century mystery by discovering its 19th-century roots. Falling in love with a beautiful young woman, he ultimately finds himself forced to choose between his lives in the present and the past. A story that will remain in the listener's memory, *Time and Again* is a remarkable blending of the troubled present and a nostalgic past, made vivid and extraordinarily moving by the images of a time that was...and perhaps still is. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline**

**Sponsored by: Ms. K Milne**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

Nearly eighteen, Molly Ayer knows she has one last chance. Just months from "aging out" of the child welfare system, and close to being kicked out of her foster home, a community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping her out of juvie and worse.

Vivian Daly has lived a quiet life on the coast of Maine. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are vestiges of a turbulent past. As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly discovers that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance. The closer Molly grows to Vivian, the more she discovers parallels to her own life. A Penobscot Indian, she, too, is an outsider being raised by strangers, and she, too, has unanswered questions about the past. As her emotional barriers begin to crumble, Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life - answers that will ultimately free them both.

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**Science Fiction & Fantasy**

***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams**

**Sponsored by: Mr. O'Farrell**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: No**

Seconds before Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor. Together, this dynamic pair began a journey through space aided by a galaxy full of fellow travelers: Zaphod Beeblebrox, the two-headed, three-armed, ex-hippie and totally out-to-lunch president of the galaxy; Trillian (formerly Tricia McMillan), Zaphod's girlfriend, whom Arthur tried to pick up at a cocktail party once upon a time zone; Marvin, a paranoid, brilliant, and chronically depressed robot; and Veet Voojagig, a former graduate student obsessed with the disappearance of all the ballpoint pens he's bought over the years. Where are these pens? Why are we born? Why do we die? For all the answers, stick your thumb to the stars. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Note from Mr. O'Farrell: If you like snarky, British humor, you should give this book a try!**

***One Second After* by William R. Forstchen\*****Sponsored by: Mr. Mullaney****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: Yes**

*New York Times* best selling author William R. Forstchen now brings us a story which can be all too terrifyingly real...a story in which one man struggles to save his family and his small North Carolina town after America loses a war, in one second, a war that will send America back to the Dark Ages...A war based upon a weapon, an Electro Magnetic Pulse (EMP). A weapon that may already be in the hands of our enemies. Months before publication, *One Second After* has already been cited on the floor of Congress as a book all Americans should read, a book already being discussed in the corridors of the Pentagon as a truly realistic look at a weapon and its awesome power to destroy the entire United States, literally within one second. It is a weapon that the Wall Street Journal warns could shatter America. In the tradition of *On the Beach*, *Fail Safe* and *Testament*, this book, set in a typical American town, is a dire warning of what might be our future...and our end. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel\*****Sponsored by: Ms. McKee****Reading Level: Intermediate****Mature Themes: Yes**

One snowy night a famous Hollywood actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of King Lear. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. Moving back and forth in time—from the actor's early days as a film star to fifteen years in the future, when a theater troupe known as The Travelling Symphony roams the wasteland of what remains—this suspenseful, elegiac, spellbinding novel charts the strange twists of fate that connect five people: the actor, the man who tried to save him, the actor's first wife, his oldest friend, and a young actress with the Traveling Symphony, caught in the crosshairs of a dangerous self-proclaimed prophet. Sometimes terrifying, sometimes tender, *Station Eleven* tells a story about the relationships that sustain us, the ephemeral nature of fame, and the beauty of the world as we know it." [\[back to list\]](#)

***Foundation* by Isaac Asimov****Sponsored by: Mr. Fiske****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: No**

For twelve thousand years the Galactic Empire has ruled supreme. Now it is dying. But only Hari Seldon, creator of the revolutionary science of psychohistory, can see into the future -- to a dark age of ignorance, barbarism, and warfare that will last thirty thousand years. To preserve knowledge and save mankind, Seldon gathers the best minds in the Empire -- both scientists and scholars -- and brings them to a bleak planet at the edge of the Galaxy to serve as a beacon of hope for a future generations. He calls his sanctuary the Foundation. But soon the fledgling Foundation finds itself at the mercy of corrupt warlords rising in the wake of the receding Empire. Mankind's last best hope is faced with an agonizing choice: submit to the barbarians and be overrun -- or fight them and be destroyed. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Note from Mr. Fiske: This is classic SciFi!*****City of Stairs* by Robert Jackson Bennett\*****Sponsored by: Mr. O'Connor****Reading Level: Intermediate****Mature Themes: Yes**

Years ago, the city of Bulikov wielded the powers of the Gods to conquer the world. But after its divine protectors were mysteriously killed, the conqueror has become the conquered; the city's proud history has been erased and censored, progress has left it behind, and it is just another colonial outpost of the world's new geopolitical power. Into this musty, backward city steps Shara Thivani. Officially, the quiet woman is just another lowly diplomat sent by Bulikov's oppressors. Unofficially, Shara is one of her country's most accomplished spymasters — dispatched to investigate the brutal murder of a seemingly harmless historian. As Shara pursues the mystery through the ever-shifting physical and political geography of the city, she begins to suspect that the beings who once protected Bulikov may not be as dead as they seem — and that her own abilities might be touched by the divine as well. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Dragons of Autumn Twilight* by Margaret Weis & Tracy Hickman\*****Sponsored by: Mr. Giblin****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: Yes**

Life-long friends, they went their separate ways. Now they are together again, though each holds secrets from the others in his heart. They speak of a world shadowed with rumors of war. They speak of tales with strange monsters, creatures of myth, creatures of legend. They do not speak of their secrets. Not then. Not until a chance encounter with a beautiful, sorrowful woman who bears a magical crystal staff draws the companions deeper into the shadow forever changing their lives and shaping the fate of the world. No one expected them to be heroes. Least of all themselves. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Cinder* by Marissa Meyer****Sponsored by: Ms. Allison****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: No**

Sixteen-year-old Cinder is considered a technological mistake by most of society and a burden by her stepmother. Being cyborg does have its benefits, though: Cinder's brain interference has given her an uncanny ability to fix things (robots, hovers, her own malfunctioning parts), making her the best mechanic in New Beijing. This reputation brings Prince Kai himself to her weekly market booth, needing her to repair a broken android before the annual ball. He jokingly calls it "a matter of national security," but Cinder suspects it's more serious than he's letting on. Although eager to impress the prince, Cinder's intentions are derailed when her younger step-sister, and only human friend, is infected with the fatal plague that's been devastating Earth for a decade. Blaming Cinder for her daughter's illness, Cinder's stepmother volunteers her body for plague research, an "honor" that no one has survived. But it doesn't take long for the scientists to discover something unusual about their new guinea pig. Something others would kill for. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Young Adult Fiction*****Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher****Sponsored by: Ms. Doherty & Ms. W Thornton****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: No**

Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a strange package with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier. Hannah's voice tells him that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he'll find out why. Clay spends the night crisscrossing his town with Hannah as his guide. He becomes a firsthand witness to Hannah's pain, and as he follows Hannah's recorded words throughout his town, what he discovers changes his life forever. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Note from Ms. Doherty: The topic - suicide - may be difficult for some. If you have questions or concerns, email or speak with Mrs. Doherty.**

***The Light: Who Do You Become When the World Fades Away?* by Jacqueline Brown****Sponsored by: Ms. Doyle****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: No**

A blinding flash ... then darkness. Bria Ford and her three closest friends are stranded on a country highway in the middle of a November night. No phones. No car. No lights. Helpless and hundreds of miles from home, they put their lives in the hands of handsome Jonah Page and his flinty sister, East, strangers who somehow know Bria better than she knows herself. As the group bonds to adapt to a new, yet old, way of life, the secrets of Bria's past provide them with the means to survive the extremes of Mother Nature, and the even more frightening extremes of human nature. Quietly suspenseful, *The Light* explores how the stories we tell ourselves shape the person we present to the world, and what happens to that person when the world falls away. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Lair of Dreams* by Libba Bray****Sponsored by: Ms. Walleston****Reading Level: Intermediate****Mature Themes: No**

After a supernatural showdown with a serial killer, Evie O'Neill has outed herself as a Diviner. With her uncanny ability to read people's secrets, she's become a media darling, earning the title "America's Sweetheart Seer." Everyone's in love with the city's newest It Girl...everyone except the other Diviners. Piano-playing Henry DuBois and Chinatown resident Ling Chan are two Diviners struggling to keep their powers a secret—for they can walk in dreams. And while Evie is living the high life, victims of a mysterious sleeping sickness are turning up across New York City. As Henry searches for a lost love and Ling strives to succeed in a world that shuns her, a malevolent force infects their dreams. And at the edges of it all lurks a man in a stovepipe hat who has plans that extend farther than anyone can guess...As the sickness spreads, can the Diviners descend into the dreamworld to save the city? [\[back to list\]](#)

**Note from Ms. Walleston: This book is the second in the *Diviners*, I recommend starting with the first.*****Looking for Alaska* by John Green\*****Sponsored by: Ms. Sprague****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: Yes**

**Before.** Miles "Pudge" Halter is done with his safe life at home. His whole life has been one big nonevent, and his obsession with famous last words has only made him crave "the Great Perhaps" even more (Francois Rabelais, poet). He heads off to the sometimes crazy and anything-but-boring world of Culver Creek Boarding School, and his life becomes the opposite of safe. Because down the hall is Alaska Young. The gorgeous, clever, funny, sexy, self-destructive, screwed up, and utterly fascinating Alaska Young. She is an event unto herself. She pulls Pudge into her world, launches him into the Great Perhaps, and steals his heart. Then. . .

**After.** Nothing is ever the same. [\[back to list\]](#)***Trouble Makes a Comeback* by Stephanie Tromly****Sponsored by: Ms. Morrier****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: No**

Achieving high school "normal" wasn't as hard as Zoe Webster expected, but she's beginning to think Hollywood oversold how much *fun* it all is. Isn't dating a jock supposed to be one long Instagram dream? Shouldn't she enjoy gossiping 24/7 with her two BFFs? And isn't this, the last year before the finish line that is Princeton, meant to be one of her best? If "normal" is the high school goal, why can't Zoe get Philip Digby—decidedly abnormal, completely chaotic, possibly unbalanced, undoubtedly rude, and somehow...entirely magnetic—out of her mind? However normal Zoe's life finally is, it's about to get blown up (metaphorically. this time. She hopes, anyway.) when Digby shows up on her doorstep. Again. Needing her help to find his kidnapped sister. Still. Full of over-the-top schemes and ready to send Zoe's life into a higher gear. Again. It's time for Zoe Webster to choose between staying in the normal lane, or taking a major detour with Digby (and finally figuring out what that stolen kiss actually meant to him). Guess which she chooses? This is a mistake; Zoe should know better than to expect there not to be explosions when Digby is in town. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Note from Ms. Morrier: This is a great sequel to last year's book! (*Trouble is a Friend of Mine*)*****The Radius of Us* by Marie Marquart****Sponsored by: Ms. Linden****Reading Level: Easy****Mature Themes: No**

Ninety seconds can change a life — not just daily routine, but who you are as a person. Gretchen Asher knows this, because that's how long a stranger held her body to the ground. When a car sped toward them and Gretchen's attacker told her to run, she recognized a surprising terror in his eyes. And now she doesn't even recognize herself. Ninety seconds can change a life — not just the place you live, but the person others think you are. Phoenix Flores-Flores knows this, because months after setting off toward the U.S. / Mexico border in search of safety for his brother, he finally walked out of detention. But Phoenix didn't just trade a perilous *barrio*

\*Grades 11 &amp; 12 Only

in El Salvador for a leafy suburb in Atlanta. He became *that* person — the one his new neighbors crossed the street to avoid. Ninety seconds can change a life — so how will the ninety seconds of Gretchen and Phoenix's first encounter change theirs? Told in alternating first person points of view, *The Radius of Us* is a story of love, sacrifice, and the journey from victim to survivor. It offers an intimate glimpse into the causes and devastating impact of Latino gang violence, both in the U.S. and in Central America, and explores the risks that victims take when they try to start over. Most importantly, Marie Marquardt's *The Radius of Us* shows how people struggling to overcome trauma can find healing in love. [[back to list](#)]

## NON-FICTION

### Art History

***Who's Afraid of Contemporary Art?* By Kyung An & Jessica Cerasi**

**Sponsored by: Mr. Kim**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: Yes**

What is contemporary art? What makes it contemporary? What is it for? And why is it so expensive? From museums and the art market to biennales and the next big thing, *Who's Afraid of Contemporary Art?* offers concise and pointed insights into today's art scene, decoding "Artspeak," explaining what curators do, demystifying conceptual art, exploring emerging art markets, and more. In this easy-to-navigate A to Z guide, the authors' playful explanations draw on key artworks, artists, and events from around the globe, including how the lights going on and off won the Turner Prize, what makes the likes of Marina Abramovic and Ai Weiwei such great artists, and why Kanye West would trade his Grammys to be one. Packed with behind-the-scenes information and completely free of jargon, *Who's Afraid of Contemporary Art?* is the perfect gallery companion and the go to guide for when the next big thing leaves you stumped. [[back to list](#)]

### Biography and Memoir

***This Star Won't Go Out: The Life and Words of Esther Grace Earl* by Esther Earl, Lori and Wayne Earl**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Jordan**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

A collection of the journals, fiction, letters, and sketches of the late Esther Grace Earl, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 16. Photographs and essays by family and friends will help to tell Esther's story along with an introduction by award-winning author John Green who dedicated his #1 bestselling novel *The Fault in Our Stars* to her. [[back to list](#)]

**Note from Ms. Jordan: Author John Green dedicated *The Fault in Our Stars* to Esther. This is a compilation of the diaries, letters, art and photography of Esther and those who loved her. Esther died of cancer at age 16 in 2010. Her mom, Lori, has worked at Walpole High School and may be a guest visitor for our Summer Reading class.**

***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates\***

**Sponsored by: Mr. Salmans & Ms. Tighe**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: Yes**

In a series of essays, written as a letter to his son, Coates confronts the notion of race in America and how it has shaped American history, many times at the cost of black bodies and lives. Thoughtfully exploring personal and historical events, from his time at Howard University to the Civil War, the author poignantly asks and attempts to answer difficult questions that plague modern society. In this short memoir, the "Atlantic" writer explains that the tragic examples of Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, and those killed in South Carolina are the results of a systematically constructed and maintained assault to black people--a structure that includes slavery, mass incarceration, and police brutality as part of its foundation. From his passionate and deliberate breakdown of the concept of race itself to the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement, Coates

powerfully sums up the terrible history of the subjugation of black people in the United States. A timely work, this title will resonate with all teens--those who have experienced racism as well as those who have followed the recent news coverage on violence against people of color. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Note from Mr. Salmans and Ms. Tighe: This book is charged with ideas about race relations in the US.**

***The Last Lecture*, by Randy Pausch**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Frattasio**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

A lot of professors give talks titled "The Last Lecture." Professors are asked to consider their demise and to ruminate on what matters most to them. And while they speak, audiences can't help but mull the same question: What wisdom would we impart to the world if we knew it was our last chance? If we had to vanish tomorrow, what would we want as our legacy? When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave--"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"--wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment (because "time is all you have...and you may find one day that you have less than you think"). It was a summation of everything Randy had come to believe. It was about *living*.

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***The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace* by Jeff Hobbs**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Hogan**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

Robert Peace was born outside Newark in a ghetto known as "Illtown." His unwed mother worked long hours in a kitchen. His charismatic father was later convicted of a double murder. Peace's intellectual brilliance and hard-won determination earned him a full scholarship to Yale University. At college, while majoring in molecular biophysics and biochemistry, he straddled the world of academia and the world of the street, never revealing his full self in either place. Upon graduation from Yale, he went home to teach at the Catholic high school he'd attended, slid into the drug trade, and was brutally murdered at age thirty. That's the short version of Robert Peace's life. The long version, the complete version, is this remarkable tour de force by Jeff Hobbs, a talented young novelist who was Peace's college roommate. Hobbs attended Peace's funeral, reached out to his friends from both Yale and Newark, and ultimately decided to write this harrowing and beautiful account of his life. What does the haunting, untimely death of one man mean? Robert Peace's life doesn't reduce to easy sociological constructions. Through Hobbs's relentless research and remarkable writing, we learn the cost of living between the world Peace was born into and the one his potential allowed him to enter. We see him work, love, fail, succeed, give to others, care for his mother, travel, and dream. We witness the decisions he made for himself and the ones that life forced upon him. But most importantly, we come to understand the sheer complexity of his existence and are irrevocably changed by the fascinating, devastating, and unforgettable life of Robert Peace. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Basketball Junkie* by Chris Herren and Bill Reynolds**

**Sponsored by: Sra. Bacon**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: No**

At basketball-crazy Durfee High School in Fall River, Massachusetts, junior guard Chris Herren carried his family's and the city's dreams on his skinny frame. His grandfather, father, and older brother had created their own sports legends in a declining city; he was the last, best hope for a career beyond the shuttered mills and factories. Herren was heavily recruited by major universities, chosen as a McDonald's All-American, featured in a Sports Illustrated cover story, and at just seventeen years old became the central figure in *Fall River Dreams*, an acclaimed book about the 1994 Durfee team's quest for the state championship. Leaving Fall River for college, Herren starred on Jerry Tarkanian's Fresno State Bulldogs team of talented misfits, which included

\*Grades 11 & 12 Only

future NBA players as well as future convicted felons. His gritty, tattooed, hip-hop persona drew the ire of rival fans and more national attention: Rolling Stone profiled him, 60 Minutes interviewed him, and the Denver Nuggets drafted him. When the Boston Celtics acquired his contract, he lived the dream of every Massachusetts kid—but off the court Herren was secretly crumbling, as his alcohol and drug use escalated and his life spiraled out of control. Twenty years later, Chris Herren was married to his high-school sweetheart, the father of three young children, and a heroin junkie. His basketball career was over, consumed by addictions; he had no job, no skills, and was a sadly familiar figure to those in Fall River who remembered him as a boy, now prowling the streets he once ruled, looking for a fix. One day, for a time he cannot remember, he would die. In his own words, Chris Herren tells how he nearly lost everything and everyone he loved, and how he found a way back to life. Powerful, honest, and dramatic, *Basketball Junkie* is a remarkable memoir, harrowing in its descent, and heartening in its return. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism* By Doris Kearns Goodwin**

**Sponsored by: Mr. Donohue**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: No**

Doris Kearns Goodwin, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and author of *Team of Rivals*, captures the Progressive Era through the story of the broken friendship between Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, culminating in their running against one another for president in 1912. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Note from Mr. Donohue: This is a dense book about politics and journalism.**

***Bossypants* by Tina Fey**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Arena & Ms. Pace**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

Before Liz Lemon, before "Weekend Update," before "Sarah Palin," Tina Fey was just a young girl with a dream: a recurring stress dream that she was being chased through a local airport by her middle-school gym teacher. She also had a dream that one day she would be a comedian on TV. She has seen both these dreams come true. At last, Tina Fey's story can be told. From her youthful days as a vicious nerd to her tour of duty on *Saturday Night Live*; from her passionately halfhearted pursuit of physical beauty to her life as a mother eating things off the floor; from her one-sided college romance to her nearly fatal honeymoon—from the beginning of this paragraph to this final sentence. Tina Fey reveals all, and proves what we've all suspected: you're no one until someone calls you bossy. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Legend: The Incredible Story of Green Beret Sergeant Roy Benavidez's Heroic Mission to Rescue a Special Forces Team Caught Behind Enemy Lines* by Eric Blehm\***

**Sponsored by: Mr. Connolly**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: Yes**

The unforgettable account and courageous actions of the U.S. Army's 240th Assault Helicopter Company and Green Beret staff sergeant Roy Benavidez, who risked everything to rescue a Special Forces team trapped behind enemy lines. In *Legend*, acclaimed bestselling author Eric Blehm takes as his canvas the Vietnam War, as seen through a single mission that occurred on May 2, 1968. A twelve-man Special Forces team had been covertly inserted into a small clearing in the jungles of neutral Cambodia—where U.S. forces were forbidden to operate. Their objective, just miles over the Vietnam border, was to collect evidence that proved the North Vietnamese Army was using the Cambodian sanctuary as a major conduit for supplying troops and materiel to the south via the Ho Chi Minh Trail. What the team didn't know was that they had infiltrated a section of jungle that concealed a major enemy base. Soon they found themselves surrounded by hundreds of NVA troops, under attack, low on ammunition, and stacking the bodies of the dead as cover in a desperate attempt to survive the onslaught. When Special Forces staff sergeant Roy Benavidez heard the distress call, he jumped aboard the next helicopter bound for the combat zone without hesitation. Orphaned at the age of seven, Benavidez had picked cotton alongside his family as a child and dropped out of school as a teen before joining the Army. Although he was grievously wounded during his first tour of duty in Vietnam and told he would never

\*Grades 11 & 12 Only

walk again, Benavidez fought his way back—ultimately earning his green beret. What followed would become legend in the Special Operations community. Flown into the fray of battle by the courageous pilots and crew of the 240th Assault Helicopter Company, Benavidez jumped from the hovering aircraft and ran nearly 100 yards through withering enemy fire. Despite being immediately and severely wounded, Benavidez reached the perimeter of the decimated team, provided medical care, and proceeded to organize an extraordinary defense and rescue. During the hours-long battle, he was bayoneted, shot, and hit by grenade shrapnel more than thirty times, yet he refused to abandon his efforts until every survivor was out of harm's way. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Fallon**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, and gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago. Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you? Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying of ALS - or motor neurone disease - Mitch visited Morrie in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final 'class': lessons in how to live. [\[back to list\]](#)

***H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald**

**Sponsored by: Mr. Alan**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: No**

When Helen Macdonald's father died suddenly on a London street, she was devastated. An experienced falconer—Helen had been captivated by hawks since childhood—she'd never before been tempted to train one of the most vicious predators, the goshawk. But in her grief, she saw that the goshawk's fierce and feral temperament mirrored her own. Resolving to purchase and raise the deadly creature as a means to cope with her loss, she adopted Mabel, and turned to the guidance of *The Once and Future King* author T.H. White's chronicle *The Goshawk* to begin her challenging endeavor. Projecting herself "in the hawk's wild mind to tame her" tested the limits of Macdonald's humanity and changed her life. Heart-wrenching and humorous, this book is an unflinching account of bereavement and a unique look at the magnetism of an extraordinary beast, with a parallel examination of a legendary writer's eccentric falconry. Obsession, madness, memory, myth, and history combine to achieve a distinctive blend of nature writing and memoir from an outstanding literary innovator. [\[back to list\]](#)

***The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story* by Diane Ackerman**

**Sponsored by: Mrs. Pierce**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: No**

In 1939 Poland, Antonina Żabińska and her husband, Dr. Jan Żabiński have the Warsaw Zoo flourishing under his stewardship and her care. When their country is invaded by the Nazis, Jan and Antonina are—and forced to report to the Reich's newly appointed chief zoologist, Lutz Heck. To fight back on their own terms, the Żabińskis covertly begin working with the Resistance—and put into action plans to save lives out of what has become the Warsaw Ghetto, with Antonina putting herself and even her children at great risk. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Papi: My Story* by David Ortiz with Michael Holley**

**Sponsored by: Mr. Ostaszewski**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

David "Big Papi" Ortiz is a baseball icon and one of the most popular figures ever to play the game. As a key part of the Boston Red Sox for 14 years, David has helped the team win 3 World Series, bringing back a storied franchise from "never wins" to "always wins." He helped them upend the doubts, the naysayers, the

nonbelievers and captured the imagination of millions of fans along the way, as he launched balls into the stands again, and again, and again. He made Boston and the Red Sox his home, his place of work, and his legacy. As he put it: *This is our f\*ing city*. In *Papi*, his ultimate memoir, Ortiz opens up as never before about his life in baseball and about the problems he sees in Major League Baseball, about former teammates, opponents, coaches, and executives, and about the weight of expectation whenever he stepped up to the plate. The result is a revelatory, fly-on-the wall story of a career by a player with a lot to say at the end of his time in the game, a game to which he gave so much and which gave so much to him. [\[back to list\]](#)

***Restless Spirit: the Unconventional Raising of a Champion* by Missy Franklin**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Campbell**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

What does it take to become a champion? Gold medalist Missy Franklin, along with her parents, D.A. and Dick, tell the inspirational and heartwarming story of how Missy became both a legendary athlete and a happy and confident woman, something they accomplished by doing things their own way and making the right choices for their family. [\[back to list\]](#)

***The Freedom Writers Diary* by Erin Gruwell & The Freedom Writers**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Gair**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

As an idealistic twenty-three-year-old English teacher at Wilson High School in Long beach, California, Erin Gruwell confronted a room of “unteachable, at-risk” students. One day she intercepted a note with an ugly racial caricature, and angrily declared that this was precisely the sort of thing that led to the Holocaust—only to be met by uncomprehending looks. So she and her students, using the treasured books *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* and *Zlata’s Diary: A Child’s Life in Sarajevo* as their guides, undertook a life-changing, eye-opening, spirit-raising odyssey against intolerance and misunderstanding. They learned to see the parallels in these books to their own lives, recording their thoughts and feelings in diaries and dubbing themselves the “Freedom Writers” in homage to the civil rights activists “The Freedom Riders.” [\[back to list\]](#)

**Travel/Adventure**

***Travel as a Political Act* by Rick Steves**

**Sponsored by: Mr. Sturges & Ms. Lia**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

Travel connects people with people. It helps us fit more comfortably and compatibility into a shrinking world. And it inspires creative new solutions to persistent problems facing our nation. We can’t understand our world without experiencing it. *Traveling as a Political Act* helps us take that first step. There’s more to travel than good-value hotels, great art, and tasty cuisine. Americans who “travel as a political act” can have the time of their lives and come home smarter and with a better understanding of the interconnectedness of today’s world and just how our nation fits in. In his new book, acclaimed travel writer Rick Steves explains how to travel more thoughtfully to any destination. He shares a series of field reports from Europe, Central America, Asia, and the Middle East to show how his travels have shaped his politics and broadened his perspective. [\[back to list\]](#)

***The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain* by Bill Bryson**

**Sponsored by: Ms. Wick**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: No**

In 1995 Bill Bryson got into his car and took a weeks-long farewell motoring trip about England before moving his family back to the United States. The book about that trip, *Notes from a Small Island*, is uproarious and endlessly endearing, one of the most acute and affectionate portrayals of England in all its glorious eccentricity ever written. Two decades later, he set out again to rediscover that country, and the result is *The Road to Little*

*Dribbling*. Nothing is funnier than Bill Bryson on the road—prepare for the total joy and multiple episodes of unseemly laughter. [[back to list](#)]

### Political Science

***Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu: And Their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts***  
by Joshua Hammer\*

**Sponsored by: Mr. Kowalski**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: Yes**

To save precious centuries-old Arabic texts from Al Qaeda, a band of librarians in Timbuktu pulls off a brazen heist worthy of Ocean's Eleven. In the 1980s, a young adventurer and collector for a government library, Abdel Kader Haidara, journeyed across the Sahara Desert and along the Niger River, tracking down and salvaging tens of thousands of ancient Islamic and secular manuscripts that had fallen into obscurity. *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* tells the incredible story of how Haidara, a mild-mannered archivist and historian from the legendary city of Timbuktu, later became one of the world's greatest and most brazen smugglers. In 2012, thousands of Al Qaeda militants from northwest Africa seized control of most of Mali, including Timbuktu. They imposed Sharia law, chopped off the hands of accused thieves, stoned to death unmarried couples, and threatened to destroy the great manuscripts. As the militants tightened their control over Timbuktu, Haidara organized a dangerous operation to sneak all 350,000 volumes out of the city to the safety of southern Mali. Over the past twenty years, journalist Joshua Hammer visited Timbuktu numerous times and is uniquely qualified to tell the story of Haidara's heroic and ultimately successful effort to outwit Al Qaeda and preserve Mali's—and the world's—literary patrimony. Hammer explores the city's manuscript heritage and offers never-before-reported details about the militants' march into northwest Africa. But above all, *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* is an inspiring account of the victory of art and literature over extremism. [[back to list](#)]

***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*** by Michelle Alexander

**Sponsored by: Ms. Rafferty\***

**Reading Level: Difficult**

**Mature Themes: Yes**

"As the United States celebrates the nation's 'triumph over race' with the election of Barack Obama, the majority of young black men in major American cities are locked behind bars or have been labeled felons for life. Although Jim Crow laws have been wiped off the books, an astounding percentage of the African American community remains trapped in a subordinate status -- much like their grandparents before them." In this incisive critique, former litigator-turned-legal-scholar Michelle Alexander provocatively argues that we have not ended racial caste in America: we have simply redesigned it. Alexander shows that, by targeting black men and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, even as it formally adheres to the principle of color blindness. *The New Jim Crow* challenges the civil rights community -- and all of us -- to place mass incarceration at the forefront of a new movement for racial justice in America. [[back to list](#)]

**Note from Ms. Rafferty: The author appears in the Netflix documentary 13th, that has a similar, (but NOT the same) topic as the book. If this is a topic that interests you, I encourage you to watch the movie as well, but you cannot watch the movie and be prepared for this book. This book is charged with themes of race and discrimination.**

### True Crime

***Blood Will Out: The True Story of a Murder, a Mystery, and a Masquerade*** by Walter Kirn

**Sponsored by: Ms. McMenimen\***

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: Yes**

In the summer of 1998, Walter Kirn--then a young novelist struggling with fatherhood and a dissolving

\*Grades 11 & 12 Only

marriage--set out on a peculiar, fateful errand: to personally deliver a crippled hunting dog from an animal shelter in Montana to the New York apartment of one Clark Rockefeller, a secretive young banker and art collector. Thus began a fifteen-year relationship that drew Kirn deep into the funhouse world of an outlandish, eccentric son of privilege who, one day, would be shockingly unmasked as a brazen serial impostor and brutal double-murderer. Kirn's one-of-a-kind story, already excerpted in *The New Yorker*, of being duped by a real-life Mr. Ripley, takes us on a bizarre and haunting journey from the posh private club rooms of Manhattan to the hard-boiled courtrooms and prisons of Los Angeles. [\[back to list\]](#)

### **Personal Growth/Self-Help/Motivational**

#### ***Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work* by Matt Crawford**

**Sponsored by: Mr. Reale**

**Reading Level: Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

Those of us who sit in an office often feel a lack of connection to the material world and find it difficult to say exactly what we do all day. For those who felt hustled off to college, then to the cubicle, *Shop Class as Soulcraft* seeks to restore the honor of the manual trades as a life worth choosing.

**Note from Mr. Reale: Inspire students to learn the value of hands on work and fixing instead of replacing things.** [\[back to list\]](#)

#### ***The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom* by Miguel Ruiz**

**Sponsored by: Mr. St. Martin**

**Reading Level Easy**

**Mature Themes: No**

In *The Four Agreements*, don Miguel Ruiz reveals the source of self-limiting beliefs that rob us of joy and create needless suffering. Based on ancient Toltec wisdom, the Four Agreements offer a powerful code of conduct that can rapidly transform our lives to a new experience of freedom, true happiness, and love. The Four Agreements are: Be Impeccable With Your Word, Don't Take Anything Personally, Don't Make Assumptions, Always Do Your Best. [\[back to list\]](#)

**Note from Mr. St. Martin: Tom Brady reads this before every football season!**

#### ***10% Happier: How I Tamed the Voice in My Head, Reduced Stress Without Losing My Edge, and Found Self-Help That Actually Works* by Dan Harris\***

**Sponsored by: Mr. Braccini**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: Yes**

After having a nationally televised panic attack on *Good Morning America*, Dan Harris knew he had to make some changes. After learning about research that suggests meditation can do everything from lower your blood pressure to essentially rewire your brain, Harris took a deep dive into the underreported world of CEOs, scientists, and even marines who are now using it for increased calm, focus, and happiness.

*10% Happier* takes readers on a ride from the outer reaches of neuroscience to the inner sanctum of network news to the bizarre fringes of America's spiritual scene, and leaves them with a takeaway that could actually change their lives. [\[back to list\]](#)

#### ***Beyond Measure: Rescuing an Overscheduled, Overtested, and Underestimated Generation* by Vicki Abeles**

**Sponsored by: Mr. O'Toole**

**Reading Level: Intermediate**

**Mature Themes: No**

From kindergarteners to high-schoolers, millions of American students are being pressured to perform in ways that make them less intellectually flexible, creative, and responsive to today's world. In *Race to Nowhere*, Vicki Abeles identified a widespread problem in our nation's schools: as students race against each other to have constantly higher grades, better test scores, and more AP courses than their classmates, they are irreparably damaging their mental and physical health. Now Abeles taps into this same grassroots community across the

\*Grades 11 & 12 Only

nation to find the solutions in *Beyond Measure*, which publishes simultaneously with the release of her new documentary. Pulling from powerful anecdotes and convincing new research, Abeles presents inspirational, quantifiable success stories and shows how anyone—students, parents, and educators—can effect change. Teachers who cut students' workload see scores rise; kids discover their own motivation once parents relieve the pressure to perform; schools that institute later start times have well-rested students who are able to learn more efficiently; and schools that emphasize depth over test prep find students more attentive, inventive, and ready to thrive. [[back to list](#)]

### **Biological Science**

#### ***Silent Spring* By Rachel Carson**

**Sponsored by: Miss Wick**

**Reading level: intermediate**

**Mature Themes: No**

Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was first published in three serialized excerpts in the *New Yorker* in June of 1962. The book appeared in September of that year and the outcry that followed its publication forced the banning of DDT and spurred revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water. Carson's passionate concern for the future of our planet reverberated powerfully throughout the world, and her eloquent book was instrumental in launching the environmental movement. It is without question one of the landmark books of the twentieth century. [[back to list](#)]