



## Upper School Summer Reading Guide 2020

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Upper School Summer Reading Guide for 2020. Here, you will find a list of the **required and choice books for all English courses, AP World History, AP U.S. History, and AP Spanish**, plus links to Amazon so you can find out more about them, read reviews, make informed choices based on your interests and worldview, and, if you would like, order them right away. You will also find **instructions and expectations** for the activities/projects we would like you to complete for the beginning of next school year.

**Please acquire your summer reading choices on your own**, from wherever you like, at whatever price point you like (new or used, purchased or borrowed from a friend or the good ol' public library), in whatever medium you like (traditional paperback, online, Sora/Overdrive ebook, Kindle, or audiobook). Unless a particular edition or translation is indicated, any copy will suffice. The Amazon links are just for your reference.

**Please read the instructions for each class carefully.** In general, for your English class, you will choose two books to read and have a written requirement. Other classes may have other requirements.

Initiated by the English Department in 1975, required summer reading has long been **a tradition at The Prairie School**. The Department believes that reading and learning should end neither in June nor with the curriculum, and strongly encourages students to take advantage of the time to read literature of their choosing — even above and beyond what we ask them to read for school. No matter the grade, required and independent reading helps students practice and improve their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.

Your teachers are thankful to have the opportunity to share in reading experiences with you even during the summer, and we hope that you are thankful as well **for the right and opportunity that you have to read, to write, and to think.**

**Please make sure that you have completed all summer work for class by the first day of school.**

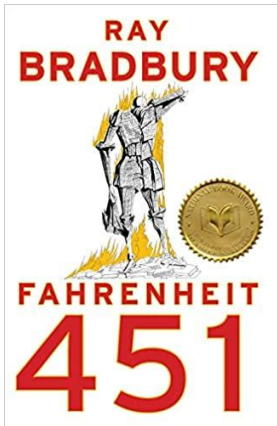
Have a wonderful summer of reading!

Sincerely,

Erin Housiaux, English Department Chair  
[ehousiaux@prairieschool.com](mailto:ehousiaux@prairieschool.com)

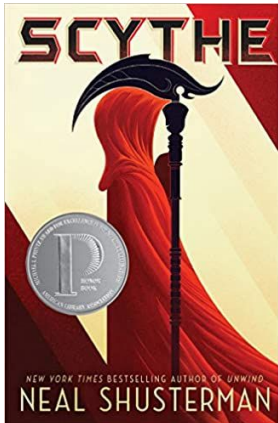
# English 9

Please choose ONE of the following books to read (preferably one that you haven't read before):



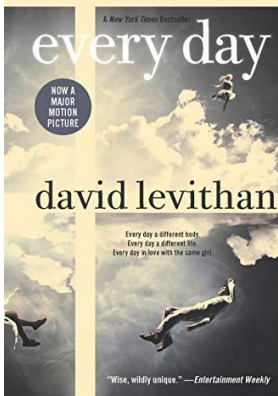
## Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.



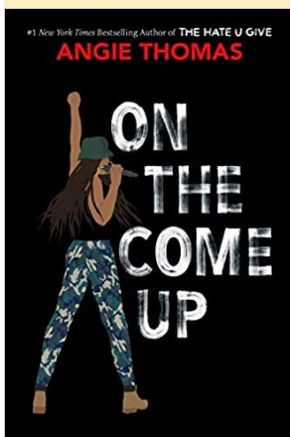
## Scythe by Neal Shusterman

Two teens must learn the "art of killing" in this Printz Honor-winning book, the first in a chilling new series from Neal Shusterman, author of the New York Times bestselling *Unwind* dystology. A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control.



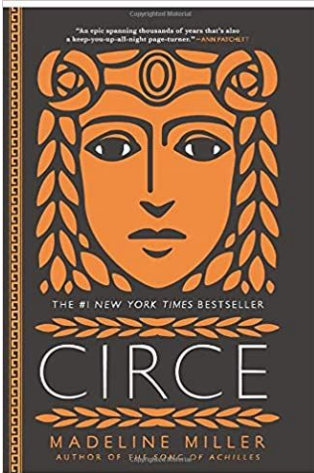
## Every day by David Levithan

Every day a different body. Every day a different life. Every day in love with the same girl. There's never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. A has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere. It's all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon.



## On the Come Up by Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least win her first battle. As the daughter of an underground hip hop legend who died right before he hit big, Bri's got massive shoes to fill. But it's hard to get your come up when you're labeled a hoodlum at school, and your fridge at home is empty after your mom loses her job. So Bri pours her anger and frustration into her first song, which goes viral . . . for all the wrong reasons.



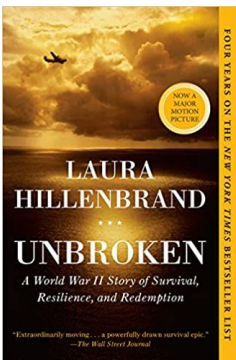
### [Circe by Madeline Miller](#)

*In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child -- not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power -- the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves. Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology, including the Minotaur, Daedalus and his doomed son Icarus, the murderous Medea, and, of course, wily Odysseus.*



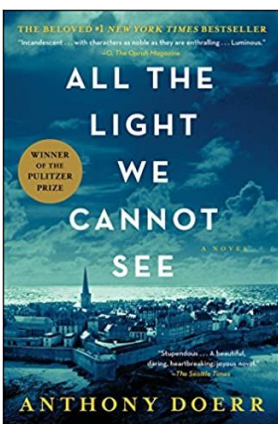
### [Side Effects May Vary by Julie Murphy](#)

*For fans of John Green and Rainbow Rowell comes this powerful novel about a girl with cancer who creates a take-no-prisoners bucket list that sets off a war at school—only to discover she's gone into remission. When sixteen-year-old Alice is diagnosed with leukemia, she vows to spend her final months righting wrongs. So she convinces her best friend, Harvey, to help her with a crazy bucket list that's as much about revenge as it is about hope.*



### [Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand](#)

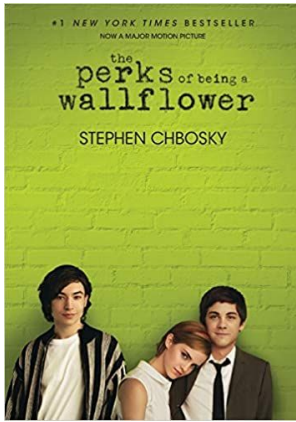
*In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater.*



### [All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr](#)

*Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance.*

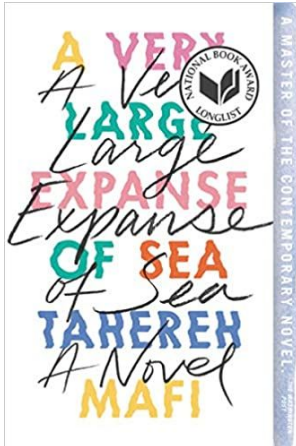




### [The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky](#)

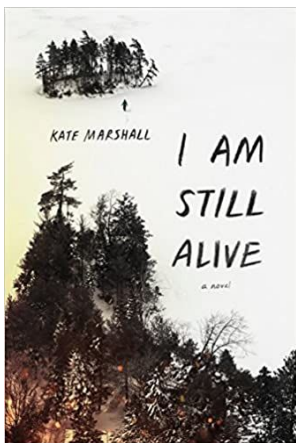
*Read the cult-favorite coming of age story that takes a sometimes heartbreaking, often hysterical, and always honest look at high school in all its glory. Also a major motion picture starring Logan Lerman and Emma Watson, The Perks of Being a Wallflower is a funny, touching, and haunting modern classic.*

*The critically acclaimed debut novel from Stephen Chbosky, Perks follows observant “wallflower” Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes.*



### [A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi](#)

*It's 2002, a year after 9/11. It's an extremely turbulent time politically, but especially so for someone like Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl who's tired of being stereotyped. Shirin is never surprised by how horrible people can be. She's tired of the rude stares, the degrading comments—even the physical violence—she endures as a result of her race, her religion, and the hijab she wears every day. So she's built up protective walls and refuses to let anyone close enough to hurt her. Instead, she drowns her frustrations in music and spends her afternoons break-dancing with her brother.*



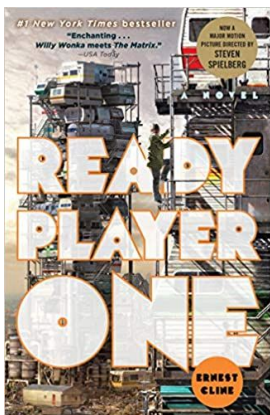
### [I Am Still Alive by Kate Alice Marshall](#)

#### **After**

*Jess is alone. Her cabin has burned to the ground. She knows if she doesn't act fast, the cold will kill her before she has time to worry about food. But she is still alive—for now.*

#### **Before**

*Jess hadn't seen her survivalist, off-the-grid dad in over a decade. But after a car crash killed her mother and left her injured, she was forced to move to his cabin in the remote Canadian wilderness.*



### [Ready Player One by Ernest Cline](#)

*A world at stake. A quest for the ultimate prize. Are you ready?*

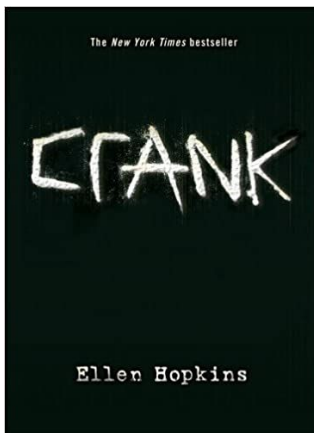
*In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the OASIS, a vast virtual world where most of humanity spends their days.*

*When the eccentric creator of the OASIS dies, he leaves behind a series of fiendish puzzles, based on his obsession with the pop culture of decades past. Whoever is first to solve them will inherit his vast fortune—and control of the OASIS itself.*



### Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

*From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether.*



### Crank by Ellen Hopkins

*This is a story about a monster. Not a dragon or a mythological beast, but a very real, very destructive monster--crystal meth--that takes hold of seventeen-year-old Kristina Snow and transforms her into her reckless alter-ego Bree. Based on her own daughter's addiction to crystal meth, Ellen Hopkins' novel-in-verse is a vivid, transfixing look into teenage drug use. Told in Kristina's voice, it provides a realistic portrayal of the tortured logic of an addict.*

In addition, Please read the following NON-FICTION book:

[This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men & Women \(2009\) \(Jay Allison, Dan Gediman, editors\)](#)

\*This is the second in the series, not the first one published in 2007.

This second collection of This I Believe II essays gathers seventy-five essayists ranging from famous to previously unknown; completing the thought that begins the book's title. Here is a welcome, stirring, and provocative communion with the minds and hearts of a diverse, new group of people whose beliefs and the remarkably varied ways in which they choose to express them reveal the American spirit at its best.

### **Requirements:**

- For This I Believe, you will **write your own This I Believe essay**. When school begins, you will be using the personal narrative essay you write as a first draft toward a revised, polished version.
- [Click here](#) for further instructions about your This I Believe essay.
- In addition, a paragraph that answers the following question: **If the main character of your choice book had to write a This I Believe essay, what would they write about? What do they believe in?**
- Make sure that your paragraph has a topic sentence, supporting details, examples from the text to support your thinking, and a concluding sentence.

*"The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story."*

- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Your writing assignment about your books is due on the first day of school and can be found [here](#). I will also email it to you. If you have questions, email me at [rwheeler@prairieschool.com](mailto:rwheeler@prairieschool.com).

Please read the following PLAY:

*Master Harold...And the Boys* (Athol Fugard) - **Drama**

"Master Harold," or Hally, learns that his alcoholic father is to be released from the hospital and struggles with his emotions during a confrontation with the two black men who work in the family's restaurant in 1950s South Africa.

In addition, please choose **ONE MORE** book to read:

- *The Drowned Cities* (Paolo Bacigalupi) - **Fiction**  
In a future America that has devolved into unending civil wars, orphans Mahlia and Mouse barely escape the war-torn lands of the Drowned Cities, but their fragile safety is soon threatened and Mahlia will have to risk everything if she is to save Mouse, as he once saved her.
- *Purple Hibiscus: A Novel* (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie) - **Fiction**  
Fifteen-year-old Kambili and her older brother Jaja lead a privileged life in Enugu, Nigeria. They live in a beautiful house, with a caring family, and attend an exclusive missionary school. They're completely shielded from the troubles of the world. Yet, as Kambili reveals in her tender-voiced account, things are less perfect than they appear.
- *We are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World* (Malala Yousafzai) - **Nonfiction**  
Nobel Peace Prize winner and *New York Times*-bestselling author Malala Yousafzai introduces some of the people behind the statistics and news stories about the millions of people displaced worldwide. Malala's experiences visiting refugee camps caused her to reconsider her own displacement -- first as an Internally Displaced Person when she was a young child in Pakistan, and then as an international activist who could travel anywhere in the world except to the home she loved. In *We Are Displaced*, which is part memoir, part communal storytelling, Malala not only explores her own story, but she also shares the personal stories of some of the incredible girls she has met on her journeys -- girls who have lost their community, relatives, and often the only world they've ever known.
- *Outcasts United: The Story of A Refugee Soccer Team That Changed A Town* (Warren St. John) - **Nonfiction**  
Based on the adult bestseller, [Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference](#), this young people's edition is a complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh.
- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope* (William Kamkwamba) - **Nonfiction**  
William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams.

- *How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child* (Sandra Uwiringiyimana) - **Nonfiction**  
This memoir is the true story of a girl from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who tells how she survived a massacre, immigrated to America, and overcame her trauma through art and activism.

*“To pull away from its rivals on a global scale, a society must pull into itself and motivate the world’s best and brightest, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or background. This is what every hyperpower in history has done, from Archaemenid Persia to the Great Mongol Empire to the British Empire, and the way they have done it is through tolerance.”*

- Amy Chua

### Required Materials:

- [Day of Empire: How Hyperpowers Rise to Global Dominance and Why They Fall](#) (Amy Chua)  
Read Chapters: Introduction, Chapters 2-5 and Chapter 12.

Historians have long debated the rise and fall of empires. To date, however, no one has studied the far rarer phenomenon of hyperpowers--those few societies that amassed such extraordinary military and economic might that they essentially dominated the world. Here, globalization expert Chua explains how hyperpowers rise and why they fall. She examines history’s hyperpowers--Persia, Rome, Tang China, the Mongols, the Dutch, the British, and the United States--and reveals the reasons behind their success, as well as the roots of their ultimate demise. For all their differences, she argues, every one of these world-dominant powers was, at least by the standards of its time, extraordinarily pluralistic and tolerant, succeeding by harnessing the skills and energies of individuals from very different backgrounds. But Chua also uncovers a great historical irony: in virtually every instance, multicultural tolerance eventually sowed the seeds of decline, and diversity became a liability

- [Composition Notebook](#) (Black and White Marbled, Hardcover)  
A composition notebook is **preferred**, as it is easier to collect, pages stay intact, hard cover protects it from the elements.

### Reading Assignment:

- Students are to read and take notes in a composition notebook on Chapters: Introduction, 2 -5 and 12 in “Day of Empire.”
- Guiding Question (Introduction, 2, 3 and 4): What elements are present in HYPERPOWERS and what led to their decline?
- What forms did intolerance take in Spain? What was the cost of this intolerance Spain (Chapter 5)?
- Guiding Question (Chapter 12): What are the current threats and challenges to the American Empire?
- Specific Examples (plural) from each empire must be identified



*"I celebrate myself, and sing myself, And what I assume you shall assume,  
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you."*  
- Walt Whitman

Join the summer Google Classroom with the class code: bnnels4.

Please choose ONE FICTION and ONE NONFICTION book to read. As you select, consider the suggested pairings (these are not requirements, but may be useful).

#### FICTION CHOICES:

- [The Catcher in the Rye](#) (J.D. Salinger), pairs with *American Way of Eating* and *Indian Creek chronicles*. Story of Holden Caulfield with his idiosyncrasies, penetrating insight, confusion, sensitivity and negativism. Holden, knowing he is to be expelled from school, decides to leave early. He spends three days in New York City and tells the story of what he did and suffered there.
- [Kindred](#) (Octavia Butler), pairs with *Color of Water* and *American Way of Eating*. Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin.
- [The House on Mango Street](#) (Sandra Cisneros), pairs with *Enrique's Journey*, *Evicted*, *Reading with Patrick*. *The House on Mango Street* is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Told in a series of vignettes-sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous-Sandra Cisneros' masterpiece is a classic story of childhood and self-discovery. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers.
- [Unaccustomed Earth](#) (Jhumpa Lahiri) (Short Stories), pairs with *Enrique's Journey*, *Color of Water*, *Reading with Patrick*. These eight stories by beloved and bestselling author Jhumpa Lahiri take us from Cambridge and Seattle to India and Thailand, as they explore the secrets at the heart of family life. Here they enter the worlds of sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers, daughters and sons, friends and lovers.
- [Age of Innocence](#) (Edith Wharton), pairs with *Indian Creek Chronicles*. One of Edith Wharton's most famous novels—the first by a woman to win the Pulitzer Prize—exquisitely details a tragic struggle between love and responsibility in Gilded Age New York.

Newland Archer, an aristocratic young lawyer, is engaged to the cloistered, beautiful May Welland. But when May's cousin Ellen arrives from Europe, fleeing her failed marriage to a Polish count, her worldly and independent nature intrigues and unsettles Archer. Trapped by his passionless relationship with May and the social conventions that forbid a relationship with the disgraced Ellen, Archer is torn between possibility and duty. Wharton's profound understanding of her characters' lives makes the triangle of Archer, May, and Ellen both urgent and poignant. An incisive look at the ways desire and emotion must negotiate the complex rules of society, *The Age of Innocence* is one of Wharton's most moving works.

- [Americanah](#) (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie), pairs with *Enrique's Journey*, *Reading with Patrick*, *Just Mercy*. 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.

- [I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter](#) (Erika Sánchez), pairs with *Evicted*, *Reading with Patrick*, *Enrique's Journey*  
Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never *abandon* their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role.

Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out *every possible way* Julia has failed.

But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend, Lorena, and her first love (first everything), Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?

- [Native Son](#) (Richard Wright), pairs with *Just Mercy*, *American Way of Eating*, *Color of Water*  
Bigger Thomas's crimes horrified Chicago who finds a sense of identity in acts of violence; sufferings, frustrations and restlessness mark the circumstances in this classic novel.

#### NONFICTION CHOICES:

- [Indian Creek Chronicles: A Winter Alone in the Wilderness](#) (Pete Fromm)  
"The wardens climbed into their truck, ready to leave. 'You'll need about seven cords of firewood. Concentrate on that. You'll have to get it all in before the snow grounds your truck.'" "Though I didn't want to ask, it seemed important. 'What's a cord?'" So begins Pete Fromm's seven winter months alone in a tent in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness guarding salmon eggs. After blundering into this forbidding errand as a college lark, Fromm gradually comes face to face with the blunt realities of life as a contemporary mountain man. Brutal cold, isolation, and fearful risks balance against the satisfaction of living a unique existence in modern America. This award-winning narrative is a gripping story of adventure, a rousing tale of self-sufficiency, and modern-day Walden.
- [Enrique's Journey](#) (Sonia Nazario)  
*Enrique's Journey* recounts the unforgettable quest of a Honduran boy looking for his mother, eleven years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the United States. Braving unimaginable peril, often clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains, Enrique travels through hostile worlds full of thugs, bandits, and corrupt cops. But he pushes forward, relying on his wit, courage, hope, and the kindness of strangers.
- [The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother](#) (James McBride)  
An African-American male tells of his mother, a white woman, who refused to admit her true identity.
- [The American Way of Eating: Undercover at Walmart, Applebee's, Farm Fields and the Dinner Table](#) (Tracie McMillan)  
When award-winning (and working-class) journalist Tracie McMillan saw foodies swooning over \$9 organic tomatoes, she couldn't help but wonder: What about the rest of us? Why do working Americans eat the way we do? And what can we do to change it? To find out, McMillan went undercover in three jobs that feed America, living and eating off her wages in each. Reporting from California fields, a Walmart produce aisle outside of Detroit, and the kitchen of a New York City Applebee's, McMillan examines the reality of our country's food industry in this "clear and essential" (*The Boston Globe*) work of reportage.

Chronicling her own experience and that of the Mexican garlic crews, Midwestern produce managers, and Caribbean line cooks with whom she works, McMillan goes beyond the food on her plate to explore the national priorities that put it there.

Fearlessly reported and beautifully written, *The American Way of Eating* goes beyond statistics and culture wars to deliver a book that is fiercely honest, strikingly intelligent, and compulsively readable. In making the simple case that—city or country, rich or poor—everyone wants good food, McMillan guarantees that talking about dinner will never be the same again.

- [Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City](#) (Matthew Desmond)  
In *Evicted*, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (*The Nation*), “vivid and unsettling” (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.
- [Reading With Patrick](#) (Michelle Kuo)  
Recently graduated from Harvard University, Michelle Kuo arrived in the rural town of Helena, Arkansas, as a Teach for America volunteer, bursting with optimism and drive. But she soon encountered the jarring realities of life in one of the poorest counties in America, still disabled by the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow. In this stirring memoir, Kuo, the child of Taiwanese immigrants, shares the story of her complicated but rewarding mentorship of one student, Patrick Browning, and his remarkable literary and personal awakening.
- [Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption](#) (Bryan Stevenson)  
Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn’t commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

*Just Mercy* is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer’s coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

[Click here](#) for requirements.

## AP U.S. History

*“History is a set of lies agreed upon.”*

- Napoleon Bonaparte

**Everyone should read the following book:**

[Lies My Teacher Told Me](#) (Dr. James Loewen)

Americans have lost touch with their history, and in *Lies My Teacher Told Me* Professor James Loewen shows why. After surveying eighteen leading high school American history texts, he has concluded that not one does a decent job of making history interesting or memorable. Marred by an embarrassing combination of blind patriotism, mindless optimism, sheer misinformation, and outright lies, these books omit almost all the ambiguity, passion, conflict, and drama from our past.

In this revised edition, packed with updated material, Loewen explores how historical myths continue to be perpetuated in today's climate and adds an eye-opening chapter on the lies surrounding 9/11 and the Iraq War. From the truth about Columbus's historic voyages to an honest evaluation of our national leaders, Loewen revives our history, restoring the vitality and relevance it truly possesses.

**Requirements:**

See [Special Instructions](#) from Dr. French about the expectations for this reading.

## English 12: Studies in Diversity

**"We need to give each other the space to grow, to be ourselves, to exercise our diversity. We need to give each other space so that we may both give and receive such beautiful things as ideas,**

**openness, dignity, joy, healing, and inclusion.”**

**- Max de Pree**

The Google Classroom code is lixgg5y.

Please read the following and find your assignment [here](#):

[Dragon Hoops](#) - Gene Yang

In his latest graphic novel, *Dragon Hoops*, *New York Times* bestselling author Gene Luen Yang turns the spotlight on his life, his family, and the high school where he teaches.

Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero *always* wins.

But Gene doesn't get sports. As a kid, his friends called him "Stick" and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that's been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships.

Please read ONE of the following:

- [Killers of the Flower Moon](#) - David Grann

In *Killers of the Flower Moon*, David Grann revisits a shocking series of crimes in which dozens of people were murdered in cold blood. Based on years of research and startling new evidence, the book is a masterpiece of narrative nonfiction, as each step in the investigation reveals a series of sinister secrets and reversals. But more than that, it is a searing indictment of the callousness and prejudice toward American Indians that allowed the murderers to operate with impunity for so long. *Killers of the Flower Moon* is utterly compelling, but also emotionally devastating.

- [The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks](#) - Rebecca Skloot

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine: The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, which are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb's effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.

## English 12: Literary Labyrinths

*“We all live in a kind of continuous dream,’ I told him. ‘When we wake, it is because something, some event, some pinprick even, disturbs the edges of what we’ve taken as reality.”*

**- Jeff Vandermeer**



Choose ONE of the following books to read and ONE of the listed films to watch. Your assignment comparing them is due on the first day of school and can be found [here](#). If you have questions, email me at [rwheeler@prairieschool.com](mailto:rwheeler@prairieschool.com).

- [Whiskey, Tango, Foxtrot](#) (David Shafer) (*NOT the one that got made into the film!*)  
The Committee, an international cabal of industrialists and media barons, is on the verge of privatizing all information. Dear Diary, an idealistic online Underground, stands in the way of that takeover, using radical politics, classic spycraft, and technology that makes Big Data look like dial-up. Into this secret battle stumbles an unlikely trio: Leila Majnoun, a disillusioned non-profit worker; Leo Crane, an unhinged trustafarian; and Mark Deveraux, a phony self-betterment guru who works for the Committee.
- [Get in Trouble: Stories](#) (Kelly Link)  
Link has won an ardent following for her ability, with each new short story, to take readers deeply into an unforgettable, brilliantly constructed fictional universe. The nine exquisite examples in this collection show her in full command of her formidable powers. In "The Summer People," a young girl in rural North Carolina serves as an uneasy caretaker to the mysterious, never-quite-glimpsed visitors who inhabit the cottage behind her house. In "I Can See Right Through You," a middle-aged movie star makes a disturbing trip to the Florida swamp where his former on- and off-screen love interest is shooting a ghost-hunting reality show. In "The New Boyfriend," a suburban slumber party takes an unusual turn, and a teenage friendship is tested, when the spoiled birthday girl opens her big present: a life-size animated doll.
- [Lagoon](#) (Nnedi Okorafor)  
It's up to a famous rapper, a biologist, and a rogue soldier to handle humanity's first contact with an alien ambassador—and prevent mass extinction—in this novel that blends magical realism with high-stakes action in Nigeria's diverse city of Lagos.
- [A Tale for The Time Being](#) (Ruth Ozeki)  
In Tokyo, sixteen-year-old Nao has decided there's only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates' bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao first plans to document the life of her great grandmother, a Buddhist nun who's lived more than a century. A diary is Nao's only solace—and will touch lives in ways she can scarcely imagine. Across the Pacific, we meet Ruth, a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox—possibly debris from the devastating 2011 tsunami. As the mystery of its contents unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao's drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future.
- [S](#) (Doug Dorst and J.J.Abrams)  
S is a puzzle book. It contains multiple nested stories in addition to 3 rounds of margin notes (that create their own story) and 22 inserts including things like newspaper clippings, a map on a napkin, and a decoder. Solve the mystery, avoid the evil, and expand your mind. And yes, it's *that* J.J. Abrams.
- [Slade House](#) (David Mitchell)  
Down the road from a working-class British pub, along the brick wall of a narrow alley, if the conditions are exactly right, you'll find the entrance to Slade House. A stranger will greet you by name and invite you inside. At first, you won't want to leave. Later, you'll find that you can't. Every nine years, the house's residents—an odd brother and sister—extend a unique invitation to someone who's different or lonely: a precocious teenager, a recently divorced policeman, a shy college student. But what really goes on inside Slade House? For those who find out, it's already too late. . . .

**Film options:**

- [Fight Club](#)
- [Rashomon](#)

- [Twelve Monkeys](#)
- [Shutter Island](#)
- [Inception](#)

## Film as Literature



Greetings filmmakers. This summer you will need to read the following book:

[The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession by Susan Orlean.](#)

*A modern classic of personal journalism, **The Orchid Thief** is Susan Orlean's wickedly funny, elegant, and captivating tale of an amazing obsession. Determined to clone an endangered flower—the rare ghost orchid *Polyrrhiza lindenii*—a deeply eccentric and oddly attractive man named John Laroche leads Orlean on an unforgettable tour of America's strange flower-selling subculture, through Florida's swamps and beyond, along with the Seminoles who help him and the forces of justice who fight him. In the end, Orlean—and the reader—will have more respect for underdog determination and a powerful new definition of passion.*

**After reading the book, you will play the role of a Hollywood producer whose lifelong passion is to see *The Orchid Thief* adapted into a major motion picture and watch its story projected on the silver screen.**

Thus, your **assignment** is to persuade the studio why and how a book about orchid dealers must be adapted into a movie. I will post the actual criteria and expectations of the assignment into Google Classroom by mid-June.

In addition, feast on as many movies as you can this summer -- any genre works. You will use the posted viewing log to keep track of your "notices" which you will learn to name once the class kicks off in August.

*“He who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past.”*  
- George Orwell

**Everyone should read the required book and one choice book:**

- Required: *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
- Choice Book for AP Portfolio (see instructions and requirements in Google Classroom)

**NOTE: Ms. Davis will give you separate instructions, activities, and due dates via Google Classroom before school’s end.**

*“There is no book so bad that it does not have something bueno in it.”*

*(No hay libro tan malo que no tenga algo bueno)*

- Miguel de Cervantes

Please [click here](#) for instructions for reading, writing, and speaking components!