# Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School
## Summer Reading List

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For full information about summer reading by grade, see the [Summer Reading section](#) of the English department website. Summaries adapted from Goodreads, Amazon, and Kirkus.
Current Summer Reading List

FICTION: Fantasy

**Akata Witch** by Nnedi Okorafor. Sunny Nwazue lives in Nigeria, but she was born in New York City. Her features are West African, but she's albino. She's a terrific athlete, but can't go out into the sun to play soccer. There seems to be no place where she fits in. And then Sunny discovers that she is a "free agent" with latent magical power. And she has a lot of catching up to do. Once she befriends Orlu, Chichi, and Sasha, Sunny is plunged in to the world of the Leopard People, where your worst defect becomes your greatest asset. Their mission is to track down Black Hat Otokoto, the man responsible for kidnapping and maiming children. Will Sunny be able to overcome the killer with powers stronger than her own, or will the future she saw in the flames become reality?

**The Bear and the Nightingale** by Katherine Arden. At the edge of the Russian wilderness, winter lasts most of the year. But Vasilisa doesn't mind—she spends the winter nights huddled around the fire with her siblings, listening to her nurse's fairy tales. Her favorite is the story of Frost, the blue-eyed winter demon, who claims unwary souls at night. Wise Russians fear him, her nurse says, and honor the spirits that protect their homes from evil. After Vasilisa's mother dies, her father goes to Moscow and brings home a new wife. Fiercely devout, Vasilisa's new stepmother forbids her family from honoring the household spirits. The family acquiesces, but Vasilisa is frightened, sensing danger. And indeed, crops begin to fail, evil creatures of the forest creep nearer, and misfortune stalks the village. Ultimately, Vasilisa must defy even those she loves and call on gifts she has long concealed, to protect her family from a threat that seems to have stepped from her nurse's most frightening tales.

**The Cruel Prince** by Holly Black. When Jude was seven years old, her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were taken to the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans. Especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King. To win a place at the Court, she must defy him—and face the consequences. In doing so, she becomes embroiled in palace intrigues and deceptions, discovering her own capacity for bloodshed. As civil war threatens, Jude will need to risk her life in a dangerous alliance to save her sisters, and Faerie itself.

**Hounded** by Kevin Hearne. Atticus O'Sullivan, last of the Druids, lives peacefully in Arizona, running an occult bookshop and shape-shifting in his spare time to hunt with his Irish wolfhound. His neighbors and customers think that this handsome, tattooed Irish dude is about twenty-one years old—when in actuality, he’s twenty-one centuries old. Not to mention: He draws his power from the earth, possesses a sharp wit, and wields an even sharper magical sword known as Fragarach, the Answerer. Unfortunately, an angry Celtic god wants that sword, and he’s hounded Atticus for centuries. Now the determined deity has tracked him down, and Atticus will need all his power—plus the help of a seductive goddess of death, his vampire and werewolf team of attorneys, a bartender possessed by a Hindu witch, and some good old-fashioned luck of the Irish—to kick some Celtic arse and deliver himself from evil.

**Norse Mythology** by Neil Gaiman. A new rendition of the great northern tales. Includes stories from the major Norse pantheon: Odin, the highest of the high, wise, daring, and cunning; Thor, Odin's son, incredibly strong yet not the wisest of gods; and Loki, son of a giant, blood brother to Odin, and a trickster and manipulator. These primeval stories form a novelistic arc that begins with the genesis of the legendary nine worlds and delves into the exploits of deities, dwarfs, and giants. Once, when Thor's hammer is stolen, Thor must disguise himself as a woman—difficult with his beard and huge appetite—to steal it back. And the tale in which the blood of Kvasir (the most sagacious of gods) is turned into a mead that infuses drinkers with poetry. The work culminates in Ragnarok, the twilight of the gods and rebirth of a new time and people.
Current Summer Reading List

**Rithmatist** by Brandon Sanderson. More than anything, Joel wants to be a Rithmatist. Rithmatists have the power to infuse life into two-dimensional figures known as Chalklings. Rithmatists are humanity’s only defense against the Wild Chalklings. Having nearly overrun the territory of Nebrask, the Wild Chalklings now threaten all of the American Isles. As the son of a lowly chalkmaker at Armledius Academy, Joel can only watch as Rithmatist students learn the magical art that he would do anything to practice. Then students start disappearing—kidnapped from their rooms at night, leaving trails of blood. Assigned to help the professor who is investigating the crimes, Joel and his friend Melody find themselves on the trail of an unexpected discovery—one that will change Rithmatics—and their world—forever.

**The Rules of Magic** by Alice Hoffman. For the Owens family, love is a curse that began in 1620, when Maria Owens was charged with witchery for loving the wrong man. Hundreds of years later, in 1960s New York, Susanna Owens knows that her three children are dangerously unique. Difficult Franny, with skin as pale as milk and blood red hair; shy and beautiful Jet, who can read other people’s thoughts; and charismatic Vincent, who began looking for trouble on the day he could walk. Susanna sets down rules for her children: No walking in the moonlight, no red shoes, no wearing black, no cats, no crows, no candles, no books about magic—and never fall in love. But when the children visit their Aunt Isabelle, they uncover family secrets and begin to understand the truth of who they are. Back in New York City each begins a risky journey as they try to escape the family curse.

**This Savage Song** by Victoria Schwab. Kate Harker and August Flynn are the heirs to a divided city—a city where the violence has begun to breed actual monsters. All Kate wants is to be as ruthless as her father, who lets the monsters roam free and makes the humans pay for his protection. All August wants is to be human, as good-hearted as his own father, to play a bigger role in protecting the innocent—but he’s one of the monsters. One who can steal a soul with a simple strain of music. When the chance arises to keep an eye on Kate, who’s just been kicked out of her sixth boarding school and returned home, August jumps at it. But Kate discovers August’s secret, and after a failed assassination attempt the pair must flee for their lives.

**Six of Crows** by Leigh Bardugo. Ketterdam: a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price—and no one knows that better than criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams—and Kaz knows just the team he needs to assemble. There’s Inej, an itinerant acrobat captured by slavers and sold to a brothel, now a spy for Kaz; the Grisha Nina, with the magical ability to calm and heal; Matthias the zealot, hunter of Grishas and caught in a hopeless spiral of love and vengeance with Nina; Wylan, the privileged boy with an engineer’s skills; and Jesper, a sharpshooter who keeps flirting with Wylan. Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz’s crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don’t kill each other first.

**Wake of Vultures** by Lila Bowen. Nettie Lonesome lives in a land of hard people and hard ground dusted with sand. She’s a half-breed who dresses like a boy, raised by folks who don’t call her a slave but use her like one. She knows of nothing else. That is, until the day a stranger attacks her. When nothing, not even a sickle to the eye can stop him, Nettie stabs him through the heart with a chunk of wood and he turns to black sand. And just like that, Nettie can see. But her newfound sight is a blessing and a curse. Even if she doesn’t understand what’s under her own skin, she can sense what everyone else is hiding—at least physically. The world is full of evil, and now she knows the source of all the sand in the desert. Haunted by the spirits, Nettie has no choice but to set out on a quest that might lead her to find her true kin—if the monsters along the way don’t kill her first.
**Current Summer Reading List**

**FICTION: Historical**

**All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr. Interweaves the stories of a blind French girl and a German boy as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. When the German Army occupies France, twelve year-old Marie-Laure and her father, a curator at the Museum of Natural History must flee Paris for the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure’s reclusive great uncle lives. With them they carry what might be the museum’s most valuable and dangerous jewel. In Germany, orphaned Werner and his sister are enchanted by an old radio that brings news of the outside world. After becoming an expert at radio, repair, Werner is enlisted into the German Army to track down resistance fighters. Their stories come together in the bombing of Saint-Malo. Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another, even in the worst of circumstances.

**Between Shades of Gray** by Ruta Sepetys. Lina is an ordinary 15 year old girl living in Lithuania until the night Soviet officers barge into her home, separating her from her father and forcing her, along with her mother and younger brother onto a crowded train headed to a work camp in 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.

**The Elephant's Journey** by José Saramago. In 1551, King João III of Portugal gave Archduke Maximilian an unusual wedding present: an elephant named Solomon. The elephant's journey from Lisbon to Vienna was witnessed and remarked upon by a many people. Solomon and his keeper, Subhro, begin in dismal conditions, forgotten in a corner of the palace grounds. Once Solomon becomes a gift, however, their fortunes change. Accompanied by the Archduke, his new wife, and the royal guard, our unlikely heroes traverse a continent riven by the Reformation and civil wars. They visit the cities of Northern Italy, traverse the Alps, and cross the Mediterranean on their way to Vienna. The Elephant's Journey is a delightful, witty tale of friendship and adventure.

**The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue** by Mackenzi Lee. Henry “Monty” Montague doesn’t care that his roguish passions are far from suitable for the gentleman he was born to be. As Monty embarks on his grand tour of Europe, his quests for pleasure and vice are in danger of coming to an end. Not only does his father expect him to take over the family’s estate upon his return, but Monty is also nursing an impossible crush on his best friend and traveling companion, Percy. So Monty vows to make this escapade one last decadent fling and flirt with Percy from Paris to Rome. But when one of Monty’s reckless decisions turns their trip abroad into a harrowing manhunt, it calls into question everything he knows, including his relationship with the boy he adores. Witty, romantic, and intriguing.

**The Good Lord Bird** by James McBride. Both a rousing adventure and a moving exploration of identity and survival. Henry Shackleford is a young slave living in the Kansas Territory in 1857, when the region is a battleground between anti- and pro-slavery forces. When John Brown, the legendary abolitionist, arrives in the area, an argument between Brown and Henry’s master quickly turns violent. Henry is forced to leave town with Brown, who believes he’s a girl. Over the next months, Henry conceals his true identity as he struggles to stay alive. Eventually he finds himself with Brown at the historic raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859—one of the great catalysts for the Civil War.
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**Nation** by Terry Pratchett. When a giant wave destroys his village, Mau is the only one left. Daphne—a traveler from the other side of the globe—is the sole survivor of a shipwreck. Separated by language and customs, the two are united by catastrophe. Slowly, they are joined by other refugees. As they struggle to protect the small band, Mau and Daphne defy ancestral spirits, challenge Death himself, and uncover a long-hidden secret that literally turns the world upside down. Encompassing themes of death, nationhood, and the nature of myth, Nation is funny, witty and wise.

**News of the World** by Paulette Jiles. In the wake of the Civil War, Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels through Texas, giving live readings from newspapers to audiences hungry for news of the world. A widower who has fought in two wars, the captain enjoys his rootless, solitary existence. Then he is offered a $50 gold piece to deliver a young orphan to her relatives in San Antonio, four hundred miles away. Four years earlier, a band of Kiowa raiders killed Johanna’s parents and sister, then raised her as one of their own. Recently rescued by the U.S. army, the ten-year-old has once again been torn away from the only home she knows. The journey South proves difficult and at times dangerous. Johanna has forgotten the English language, tries to escape at every opportunity, and refuses to act “civilized.” Yet as the miles pass, the two lonely survivors tentatively begin to trust each other, forming a bond that will change both their lives.

**The Underground Railroad** by Colson Whitehead. Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hellish for all the slaves but especially bad for Cora, coming into womanhood and an outcast even among her fellow Africans. When Caesar, recently arrived 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. 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.

FICTION: Realistic

**Exit, Pursued by a Bear** by E.K. Johnston. Hermione Winters is captain of her cheerleading team. In tiny Palermo Heights High School, the cheerleaders don't cheer for the sports teams, they are the sports team: the pride and joy of a tiny town. The team's summer training camp is Hermione's last and marks the beginning of the end of... she's not sure what. She does know this season could make her a legend. But during a camp party, someone slips something in her drink. And it all goes black. In every class, there's a star cheerleader and a pariah pregnant girl. They're never supposed to be the same person. Hermione struggles to regain the control she's always had and faces a wrenching decision about how to move on. The assault wasn't the beginning of Hermione Winter's story, and she's not going to let it be the end. She won’t be anyone’s cautionary tale.

**Exit West** by Mohsin Hamid. In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people meet—sensual, fiercely independent Nadia and gentle, restrained Saeed. They embark on a furtive love affair and are soon cloistered in a premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city. When it explodes, turning familiar streets into a patchwork of checkpoints and bomb blasts, they begin to hear whispers about doors—doors that can whisk people far away, if perilously and for a price. As the violence escalates, Nadia and Saeed decide that they no longer have a choice. Leaving their homeland and their old lives behind, they find a door and step through. Exit West follows these characters as they emerge into an alien and uncertain future, struggling to hold on to each other, to their past, to the very sense of who they are. Profoundly intimate and powerfully inventive, it tells an unforgettable story of love, loyalty, and courage that is both completely of our time and for all time.
Current Summer Reading List

**Far from the Tree** by Robin Benway. Only child Grace was adopted at birth. After she puts her own child up for adoption, she begins searching her biological family. She quickly discovers that she is a middle child, sandwiched between a loud younger sister, Maya, and a quieter older brother, Joaquin. The sibling, who are all struggling in different ways, find themselves turning to one another, learning that family comes in many forms.

"With a well-imagined cast of secondary characters who add angst, humor, and depth, Benway adeptly leads readers through a tale of love, loss, and self-discovery." - Erica Deb, Matawan Aberdeen Public Library, NJ.

**The Fishermen** by Chigozie Obioma. Told by nine-year-old Benjamin, the youngest of four brothers, THE FISHERMEN is the Cain and Abel-esque story of a childhood in Nigeria, in the small town of Akure. When their father has to travel to a distant city for work, the brothers take advantage of his absence to skip school and go fishing. At the forbidden nearby river, they meet a madman who persuades the oldest of the boys that he is destined to be killed by one of his siblings. What happens next is an almost mythic event whose impact—both tragic and redemptive—will transcend the lives and imaginations of the book's characters and readers. Dazzling and viscerally powerful, THE FISHERMEN is an essential novel about Africa, seen through the prism of one family's destiny.

**Ginny Moon** by Benjamin Ludwig. Ginny Moon is fourteen, autistic, and trying to make sense of a world that just doesn’t seem to add up. After years in foster care, Ginny is in her fourth “forever family”, finally with parents who will love her. Everyone tells her that she should feel happy, but she has never stopped crafting her Big Secret Plan of Escape. Why? Well, something happened, a long time ago – something that only Ginny knows – and she is committed to making it right.

A fiercely poignant and inspirational story of a lost girl searching for a place to call home. Ginny Moon will change everyone who spends time with her.

**Highly Illogical Behavior** by John Corey Whaley. Sixteen-year-old Solomon is agoraphobic. He hasn’t left the house in three years, which is fine by him. Ambitious Lisa desperately wants to get into the second-best psychology program for college (she’s being realistic). But is ambition alone enough to get her in? Enter Lisa. Determined to “fix” Sol, Lisa steps into his world, along with her charming boyfriend, Clark, and soon the three form an unexpected bond. But, as Lisa learns more about Sol and he and Clark grow closer and closer, the walls they’ve built around themselves start to collapse and their friendships threaten to do the same.

**Let the Great World Spin** by Colum McCann. Corrigan, a radical young Irish monk, struggles with his own demons as he lives among the prostitutes in the middle of the burning Bronx. A group of mothers gather in a Park Avenue apartment to mourn their sons who died in Vietnam, only to discover just how much divides them even in grief. A young artist finds herself at the scene of a hit-and-run that sends her own life careening sideways. Tillie, a thirty-eight-year-old grandmother, turns tricks alongside her teenage daughter, determined not only to take care of her family but to prove her own worth.
Current Summer Reading List

**The Running Dream** by Wendelin Van Draanen. Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope, Jessica feels oddly both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say, act like she's not there. Which she could handle better if she weren't now keenly aware that she'd done the same thing to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her. With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself—she wants to take Rosa with her.

**The Sixth Man** by John Feinstein. It’s basketball season. And for once, triple threat Alex Myers is not the one in the spotlight. There’s a new new guy in town, and Max Bellotti promises to turn the Lions’ losing streak around and lead the team to a conference title. Alex is psyched, but some of the older guys on the team resent being benched in favor of an upstart freshman. Team morale is rocky at best. And when Max comes out as gay, not everyone takes the news in stride. Snide comments and cold shoulders escalate into heated protests and an out-and-out war with the school board. While controversy swirls around them, the Lions have to decide: Will personal issues sink their season, or can they find a way to stand together as a team?

**The Sun is Also a Star** by Nicola Yoon, author of *Everything, Everything*. Natasha: I’m a girl who believes in science and facts. Not fate. Not destiny. Or dreams that will never come true. I’m definitely not the kind of girl who meets a cute boy on a crowded New York City street and falls in love with him. Not when my family is twelve hours away from being deported to Jamaica. Falling in love with him won’t be my story. Daniel: I’ve always been the good son, the good student, living up to my parents’ high expectations. Never the poet. Or the dreamer. But when I see her, I forget about all that. Something about Natasha makes me think that fate has something much more extraordinary in store—for both of us. The Universe: Every moment in our lives has brought us to this single moment. A million futures lie before us. Which one will come true?

**Turtles all the Way Down** by John Greene. Sixteen-year-old Aza and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, hoping for the $100,000 reward at stake. Together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett’s son, Davis. Aza is trying, but she’s also struggling with her OCD. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts. Acclaimed author John Green shares Aza’s story with shattering, unflinching clarity in this brilliant novel of love, resilience, and the power of lifelong friendship.

**FICTION: Science Fiction and Dystopia**

**Borne** by Jeff VanderMeer. Rachel survives as a scavenger in a city half destroyed by drought and conflict. The city is dangerous, littered with discarded experiments from a biotech firm called the Company and threatened by the unpredictable predations of a giant bear named Mord. Rachel ekes out an existence in a run-down shelter she shares with her partner, Wick. One day, Rachel finds Borne during a scavenging mission and takes him home. Borne is little more than a green lump, but he exudes a strange charisma. Against Rachel’s instincts—and Wick’s wishes—Rachel keeps Borne. Borne, learning to speak, learning about the world, is fun to be with, and in a world so broken his innocence is a precious thing. But as Borne grows, he threatens the balance of power in the city and to put the security of her sanctuary at risk. For the Company, it seems, may not be truly dead, and new enemies are creeping in.
**Delirium** by Lauren Oliver. In an alternate United States, love has been declared a dangerous disease, and the government forces everyone who reaches eighteen to have a procedure called the Cure. Living with her aunt, uncle, and cousins in Portland, Maine, Lena Haloway is very much looking forward to being cured and living a safe, predictable life. She watched love destroy her mother and isn't about to make the same mistake. But with ninety-five days left until her treatment, Lena meets enigmatic Alex, a boy from the "Wilds" who lives under the government's radar. What will happen if they do the unthinkable and fall in love?

**Ready Player One** by Ernest Cline. In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines, puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. When Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.

**Scythe** by Neal Shusterman. 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. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

**The Selection** by Kiera Cass. For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to be swept up in a world of glittering gowns and priceless jewels, live in a palace and compete for the heart of gorgeous Prince Maxon. But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare. It means turning her back on her secret love with Aspen, who is a caste below her. Leaving her home to enter a fierce competition for a crown she doesn't want. Living in a palace that is constantly threatened by violent rebel attacks. Then America meets Prince Maxon. Gradually, she starts to question all the plans she's made for herself—and realizes that the life she's always dreamed of may not compare to a future she never imagined.

**Warcross** by Marie Lu. For the millions who log in every day, Warcross isn't just a game, it's a way of life. Struggling to make ends meet, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, tracking down players who bet on the game illegally. When Emika hacks into the game, she's convinced she'll be arrested, and is shocked when she gets a call from the game's creator, the elusive young billionaire Hideo Tanaka. He needs a spy on the inside of this year's tournament in order to uncover a security problem—and he wants Emika for the job.

**We are the Ants** by Shaun David Hutchinson. Henry Denton has spent years being periodically abducted by aliens. Then the aliens give him an ultimatum: The world will end in 144 days; Henry just needs to push a big red button to stop it. Only he isn’t sure he wants to. After all, life hasn’t been great for Henry. His mom is a struggling waitress. His brother is a jobless dropout. His grandmother is slowly losing herself to Alzheimer’s. And Henry is still dealing with the grief of his boyfriend’s suicide. Wiping the slate clean sounds like a pretty good choice to him. But Henry is a scientist first, and facing the question logically, he looks for pros and cons. Weighing the pain and the joy that surrounds him, Henry is left with the ultimate choice: push the button and save the planet and everyone on it...or let the world—and his pain—be destroyed forever.
Current Summer Reading List

**Wool Omnibus** by Hugh Howey. This Omnibus Edition collects the five *Wool* books into a single volume. Howey takes us to the post-apocalyptic world of the Silo: a large, underground bunker of 144 levels where several thousand people live, work, and wonder about the world “outside.” All they see of that world is what’s projected to them via dust-covered video sensors that show a toxic, ruined wasteland lacking any signs of life. This is the story of mankind clawing for survival, of mankind on the edge. The world outside has grown unkind, the view of it limited, talk of it forbidden. But there are always those who hope, who dream. These are the dangerous people, the residents who infect others with their optimism. Their punishment is simple. They are given the very thing they profess to want: they are allowed outside.

**FICTION: Supernatural and Horror**

**Anna Dressed in Blood** by Kendare Blake. Cas Lowood has inherited an unusual vocation: He kills the dead. So did his father before him, until he was gruesomely murdered by a ghost he sought to kill. Now, armed with his father's mysterious and deadly athame, Cas travels the country with his kitchen-witch mother and their spirit-sniffing cat. They follow legends and local lore, destroy the murderous dead, and keep pesky things like the future and friends at bay. Searching for a ghost the locals call Anna Dressed in Blood, Cas expects the usual: track, hunt, kill. What he finds instead is a girl entangled in curses and rage, a ghost like he's never faced before. She still wears the dress she wore on the day of her brutal murder in 1958: once white, now stained red and dripping with blood. Since her death, Anna has killed any and every person who has dared to step into the deserted Victorian she used to call home. Yet she spares Cas's life.

**The Call** by Peadar Ó Guilín. Vanessa Doherty is a 14-year-old white lass who attends Boyle Survival College, one of many in Ireland that serve only to teach its youth how to survive the Call of the Sidhe. The Sidhe are magical beings who were, in a distant past, banished from Ireland to live in a hellish netherworld. Seeking revenge, the Sidhe kidnap Ireland’s youth via the Call: the dreaded, unexpected moment when an adolescent simply disappears from Earth to land in a dreamlike, horrific underworld full of monsters—and the carnivorous Sidhe. From the age of 10, the Call is the moment every young person trains to survive, even grimly determined Nessa, who is permanently disabled from polio and can only navigate the training on crutches. One by one, students vanish, sometimes forever, into the Grey Land of the Sidhe.

**The Forest of Hands and Teeth** by Carrie Ryan. In Mary's world there are simple truths. The Sisterhood always knows best. The Guardians will protect and serve. The Unconsecrated will never relent. And you must always mind the fence that surrounds the village; the fence that protects the village from the Forest of Hands and Teeth. But, slowly, Mary’s truths are failing her. She’s learning things she never wanted to know about the Sisterhood and its secrets, the Guardians and their power, and the Unconsecrated and their relentlessness. When the fence is breached and her world is thrown into chaos, she must choose between her village and her future—between the one she loves and the one who loves her. And she must face the truth about the Forest of Hands and Teeth.

**The Girl from the Well** by Rin Chupeco. A dead girl walks the streets. She hunts murderers. Child killers, much like the man who threw her body down a well three hundred years ago. And when a strange boy bearing stranger tattoos moves into the neighborhood so, she discovers, does something else. And soon both will be drawn into the world of eerie doll rituals and dark Shinto exorcisms that will take them from American suburbia to the remote valleys and shrines of Aomori, Japan. Because the boy has a terrifying secret - one that would just *kill* to get out.
Current Summer Reading List

**A Head Full of Ghosts** by Paul Tremblay. The lives of the Barretts, a suburban New England family, are torn apart when fourteen-year-old Marjorie begins to display signs of schizophrenia. As their home devolves into a house of horrors, they reluctantly turn to a local Catholic priest for help. He suggests an exorcism; he also contacts a production company that is eager to document the Barretts’ plight. The family agrees to be filmed, and eventually the reality TV show and the shocking incidents it captures become the stuff of urban legend. Fifteen years later, a writer interviews Marjorie’s younger sister, Merry. As she recalls the events from long ago, secrets and painful memories clash with what was broadcast on television—and a tale of psychological horror raises questions about memory and reality, science and religion, and the nature of evil.

**My Best Friend’s Exorcism** by Grady Hendrix. Abby and Gretchen have been best friends since fifth grade, when they bonded over a shared love of E.T., roller-skating parties, and scratch-and-sniff stickers. But when they arrive at high school, things change. Gretchen begins to act…different. And as the strange coincidences and bizarre behavior start to pile up, Abby realizes there’s only one explanation: Gretchen, her favorite person in the world, has a demon living inside her. And Abby is not about to let anything come between her and her best friend. With help from some unlikely allies, Abby embarks on a quest to save Gretchen. But is their friendship powerful enough to beat the devil?

**FICTION: Suspense and Mystery**

**And Then There Were None** by Agatha Christie. First, there were ten—a curious assortment of strangers summoned as weekend guests to a private island off the coast of Devon. Their host, an eccentric millionaire unknown to all of them, is nowhere to be found. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they’re unwilling to reveal—and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. One by one they fall prey. Before the weekend is out, there will be none. And only the dead are above suspicion.

**Dreamland Burning** by Jennifer Latham (also historical fiction). When seventeen-year-old Rowan Chase finds a skeleton on her family’s property, she has no idea that investigating the brutal century-old murder will lead to a summer of painful discoveries about the past, the present, and herself. One hundred years earlier, a single violent encounter propels seventeen-year-old Will Tillman into a racial firestorm. In a country rife with violence against blacks and a hometown segregated by Jim Crow, Will must make hard choices on a painful journey towards self discovery and face his inner demons in order to do what’s right the night Tulsa burns.

**Girl in the Blue Coat** by Monica Hesse. Amsterdam, 1943. Hanneke spends her days procuring and delivering sought-after black market goods to paying customers, her nights hiding the true nature of her work from her concerned parents, and every waking moment mourning her boyfriend, who was killed on the Dutch front lines when the Germans invaded. On a routine delivery, a client asks Hanneke for help. Expecting to hear that Mrs. Janssen wants meat or kerosene, Hanneke is shocked by the older woman’s frantic plea to find a person—a Jewish teenager Mrs. Janssen had been hiding, who has vanished without a trace from a secret room. Hanneke is ultimately drawn into a web of mysteries and stunning revelations that lead her into the heart of the resistance, open her eyes to the horrors of the Nazi war machine, and compel her to take desperate action.
Current Summer Reading List

**Mr. Mercedes** by Stephen King. In a high-suspense race against time, three of the most unlikely heroes Stephen King has ever created try to stop a lone killer from blowing up thousands. *Mr. Mercedes* is a war between good and evil, from the master of suspense whose insight into the mind of this obsessed, insane killer is chilling and unforgettable.

**One of Us Is Lying** by Karen M. McManus. The Breakfast Club meets Pretty Little Liars, *One of Us Is Lying* is the story of what happens when five strangers walk into detention and only four walk out alive. Everyone is a suspect, and everyone has something to hide. On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. Before the end of detention, one is dead and, according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident. He'd planned to post juicy reveals about all four of his high-profile classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder. Or are they the perfect patsies for a killer who's still on the loose? Everyone has secrets, right? What really matters is how far you would go to protect them.

**Warlight** by Michael Ondaatje. In a narrative as beguiling and mysterious as memory itself—shadowed and luminous at once—we read the story of fourteen-year-old Nathaniel, and his older sister, Rachel. In 1945, just after World War II, they stay behind in London when their parents move to Singapore, leaving them in the care of a mysterious figure named The Moth. They suspect he might be a criminal, and they grow both more convinced and less concerned as they come to know his eccentric crew of friends. But are they really what and who they claim to be? A dozen years later, Nathaniel begins to uncover all he didn’t know or understand in that time, and it is this journey—through reality, recollection, and imagination—that is told in this magnificent novel.

**FICTION: Unique Format**

**Bull** by David Elliott. Novel in Verse. Updates the ancient myth of Theseus and the Minotaur, a story of blackmail, betrayal and revenge, by turning it on its head. Retold in multi-voice hip-hop rhymes, the story becomes rowdy, darkly comedic, powerful, and very entertaining. Bull will have readers reevaluating the Greek gods as well as one of mythology's most infamous monsters.

**The Good Braider** by Terry Farish. Novel in Verse. In spare free verse laced with unforgettable images, Viola’s strikingly original voice sings out the story of her family's journey from war-torn Sudan, to Cairo, and finally to Portland, Maine. Here, in the sometimes too close embrace of the local Southern Sudanese Community, she dreams of South Sudan while she tries to navigate the strange world of America—a world where a girl can wear a short skirt, get a tattoo or even date a boy; a world that puts her into sharp conflict with her traditional mother who, like Viola, is struggling to braid together the strands of a displaced life.
**Current Summer Reading List**

**In Real Life** by Cory Doctorow and Jen Wang. Graphic Fiction. Anda loves Coarsegold Online, the massively-multiplayer role-playing game where she spends most of her free time. It's a place where she can be a leader, a fighter, a hero. It's a place where she can meet people from all over the world, and make friends. But things become a lot more complicated when Anda befriends a gold farmer—a poor Chinese kid whose avatar in the game illegally collects valuable objects and then sells them to players from developed countries with money. This behavior is strictly against the rules in Coarsegold, but Anda soon comes to realize that questions of right and wrong are a lot less straightforward when a real person's real livelihood is at stake.

**Long Way Down** by Jason Reynolds. Novel in Verse. A gun. That’s what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That’s where Will’s now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother’s gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he’s after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on each floor, the whole long way down, someone connected to his brother - someone who has died - gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END…if WILL gets off that elevator.

**March** Books 1-3 by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell. Graphic format nonfiction. Georgia Congressman John Lewis is an American icon, one of the key figures of the civil rights movement. His commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper’s farm to the halls of Congress, from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington, and from receiving beatings from state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom from the first African-American president. The graphic novel trilogy March is a vivid first-hand account of Lewis’ lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis’ personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

**The Poet X** by Elizabeth Acevedo. Novel in Verse. A young girl in Harlem discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother’s religion and her own relationship to the world. Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook. With Mami’s determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school’s slam poetry club, she doesn’t know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out, much less speak her words out loud. But still, she can’t stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.

**Spill Zone** by Scott Westerfeld and Alex Puvilland. Graphic Fiction. Nobody's ever really explained the Spill. Was it an angelic visitation? A nanotech accident? A porthole opening from another world? Whatever it was, no one's allowed in the Spill Zone these days except government scientists and hazmat teams. But a few intrepid explorers know how to sneak through the patrols and steer clear of the dangers inside the Zone. Addison Merrick is one such explorer, dedicated to finding out what happened that night and to unraveling the events that took her parents and left her little sister mute and disconnected from the world.
**Current Summer Reading List**

**Through The Woods** by Emily Carroll. Graphic Fiction. These are fairy tales gone seriously wrong. In “Our Neighbor’s House,” a trio of sisters are taken one by one by a never-seen smiling man. In the next, a bride discovers that “A Lady’s Hands Are Cold”—as are the other pieces (seen in close, icky detail) of her husband’s dismembered but not entirely dead former wife. Two cases of supernatural possession (“His Face All Red” and “My Friend Janna”) follow. The collection is capped by a true screamer in which a teenager’s memories of her mother’s tales of a cellar-dwelling monster with a “sweet, wet voice” segue into a horrific revelation about her pretty new sister-in-law. Lonely houses, dark woods and wolves? Check. Spectral figures with blood-red innards? Check. Writhing tentacles bursting from suddenly inhuman mouths? Check!

**NONFICTION: Biography and Memoir**

**Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood** by Trevor Noah. Trevor Noah’s unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents’ indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa’s tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

**Dog Medicine: How My Dog Saved Me from Myself** by Julie Barton. At twenty-two, Julie Barton collapsed on her kitchen floor in Manhattan. She was one year out of college and severely depressed. Summoned by Julie's incoherent phone call, her mother raced from Ohio to New York and took her home. Psychiatrists, therapists and family tried to intervene, but nothing reached her until the day she decided to do one hopeful thing: adopt a Golden Retriever puppy she named Bunker. *Dog Medicine* captures in beautiful language the anguish of depression, the slow path to recovery, and the astonishing way animals can heal even the most broken hearts and minds.

**Endurance: A Year in Space, A Lifetime of Discovery** by Scott Kelly. The veteran of four space flights and the American record holder for consecutive days spent in space, Kelly’s memoir recounts his life and the extreme challenge of long-term spaceflight, both existential and banal. His humanity, compassion, humor, and passion resonate throughout, as he recalls his rough-and-tumble New Jersey childhood as “a really bad student” and the youthful inspiration that sparked his astounding career. A natural storyteller and modern-day hero, Kelly has a message of hope for the future that will inspire for generations to come. Here, in his personal story, we see the triumph of the human imagination, the strength of the human will, and the boundless wonder of the galaxy.

**How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child** by Sandra Uwiringiyimana and Abigail Pesta. Sandra Uwiringiyimana was just ten years old in the Democratic Republic of the Congo when she found herself with a gun pointed at her head. She had watched as rebels gunned down her mother and six-year-old sister in a refugee camp. Remarkably, the rebel didn’t pull the trigger, and Sandra escaped. Thus began a new life for her and her surviving family members. With no home and no money, they struggled to stay alive. Eventually, through a United Nations refugee program, they moved to America, only to face yet another ethnic disconnect. Sandra may have crossed an ocean, but now she faced a much wider divide, and it started with middle school in New York. In this memoir, Sandra tells the story of her survival, of finding her place in a new country, of her hope for the future, and how she found a way to give voice to her people.
Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg never asked for fame—she was just trying to make the world a little better and a little freer. But along the way, the feminist pioneer's searing dissents and steely strength have inspired millions. Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, created by the young lawyer who began the Internet sensation and an award-winning journalist, takes you behind the myth for an intimate, irreverent look at the justice's life and work. As America struggles with the unfinished business of gender equality and civil rights, Ginsburg stays fierce.

Provenance: How a Con Man and a Forger Rewrote the History of Modern Art by Laney Salisbury and Aly Sujo. The true story of one of the twentieth century's most audacious art frauds, Provenance reads like a well-plotted thriller. But this is most certainly not fiction: it is the astonishing narrative of one of the most far-reaching and elaborate cons in the history of art forgery. Stretching from London to Paris to New York, investigative reporters Laney Salisbury and Aly Sujo recount the tale of infamous con man and unforgettable villain John Drewe and his accomplice, the affable artist John Myatt. Together they exploited the archives of British art institutions to irrevocably legitimize the hundreds of pieces they forged, many of which are still considered genuine and hang in prominent museums and private collections today.

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand. On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini; ahead of him lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a foundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.

Nonfiction: History

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson. On May 1, 1915, a luxury ocean liner as richly appointed as an English country house sailed out of New York, bound for Liverpool, carrying a record number of children and infants. The passengers were anxious. Germany had declared the seas around Britain to be a war zone, and for months, its U-boats had brought terror to the North Atlantic. But the Lusitania was one of the era's great transatlantic "Greyhounds" and her captain, William Thomas Turner, placed tremendous faith in the gentlemanly strictures of warfare that for a century had kept civilian ships safe from attack. Dead Wake captures the sheer drama and emotional power of a disaster whose intimate details and true meaning have long been obscured by history.

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann. In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI took up the case, and the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to try to unravel the mystery. White put together an undercover team, including a Native American agent who infiltrated the region, and together with the Osage began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.
Current Summer Reading List

**Leonardo and the Last Supper** by Ross King. In 1495, Leonardo da Vinci began what would become one of history's most influential works of art: The Last Supper. Amid war and the political and religious turmoil around him, and beset by his own insecurities and frustrations, Leonardo created the masterpiece that would forever define him. Ross King unveils dozens of stories that are embedded in the painting, and overturns many of the myths surrounding it. Bringing to life a fascinating period in European history, he presents an original portrait of one of history's greatest geniuses through the lens of his most famous work.

**Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War** by Steve Sheinkin. On June 13, 1971, the front page of the *New York Times* announced the existence of a 7,000-page collection of documents containing a secret history of the Vietnam War. Known as The Pentagon Papers, these documents had been commissioned by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. Chronicling every action the government had taken in the Vietnam War, they revealed a pattern of deception spanning over twenty years and four presidencies, and forever changed the relationship between American citizens and the politicians claiming to represent their interests. A provocative book that interrogates the meanings of patriotism, freedom, and integrity.

**Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune** by Pamela Turner. Minamoto Yoshitsune should not have been a samurai. But his story is legend in this real-life saga. This epic warrior tale reads like a novel, but this is the true story of the greatest samurai in Japanese history. When Yoshitsune was just a baby, his father went to war with a rival samurai family—and lost. His father was killed, his mother captured, and his surviving half-brother banished. Yoshitsune was sent away to live in a monastery. Skinny, small, and unskilled in the warrior arts, he nevertheless escaped and learned the ways of the samurai. When the time came for the Minamoto clan to rise up against their enemies, Yoshitsune answered the call. His daring feats and impossible bravery earned him immortality.

**The Swerve: How the World Became Modern** by Stephen Greenblatt. Nearly six hundred years ago, a cannily alert man discovered the last surviving manuscript of an ancient Roman philosophical epic, *On the Nature of Things*, by Lucretius. This beautiful poem offered dangerous ideas: that the universe functioned without the aid of gods, that religious fear was damaging to human life, and that matter was made up of very small particles in eternal motion, colliding and swerving in new directions. The book would fuel the Renaissance and inspire artist and thinkers including Botticelli, Galileo, Freud, Darwin, Einstein, Montaigne, Shakespeare and Thomas Jefferson.

**NONFICTION: Science and Math**

**Astrophysics for People in a Hurry** by Neil DeGrasse Tyson. The essential universe, from our most celebrated and beloved astrophysicist. What is the nature of space and time? How do we fit within the universe? How does the universe fit within us? There’s no better guide through these mind-expanding questions than acclaimed astrophysicist and best-selling author Neil deGrasse Tyson. Tyson brings the universe down to Earth succinctly and clearly, with sparkling wit, in tasty chapters consumable anytime and anywhere in your busy day. While you wait for your morning coffee to brew, for the bus, the train, or a plane to arrive, Astrophysics for People in a Hurry will reveal just what you need to be fluent and ready for the next cosmic headlines: from the Big Bang to black holes, from quarks to quantum mechanics, and from the search for planets to the search for life in the universe.
Current Summer Reading List

The Geography of Genius: A Search for the World's Most Creative Places from Ancient Athens to Silicon Valley by Eric Weiner. Acclaimed travel writer Weiner sets out to examine the connection between our surroundings and our most innovative ideas. He explores the history of places—Vienna of 1900, Renaissance Florence, ancient Athens, Song Dynasty Hangzhou, and Silicon Valley—to show how certain urban settings are conducive to ingenuity. And, with his trademark insightful humor, he walks the same paths as the geniuses who flourished in these settings to see if the spirit of what inspired figures like Socrates, Michelangelo, and Leonardo remains.

Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War by Mary Roach. Grunt tackles the science behind some of a soldier's most challenging adversaries—panic, exhaustion, heat, noise—and introduces us to the scientists who seek to conquer them. Mary Roach dodges hostile fire with the U.S. Marine Corps Paintball Team as part of a study on hearing loss and survivability in combat. She visits the fashion design studio of U.S. Army Natick Labs and learns why a zipper is a problem for a sniper. She visits a repurposed movie studio where amputee actors help prepare Marine Corps medics for the shock and gore of combat wounds. She answers questions not found in any other book on the military: How is a wedding gown like a bomb suit? Why are shrimp more dangerous to sailors than sharks? Take a tour of duty with Roach, and you’ll never see our nation’s defenders in the same way again.

The Joy of x: A Guided Tour of Math, from One to Infinity by Steven Strogatz. Many people take math in high school and promptly forget much of it. But math plays a part in all of our lives all of the time, whether we know it or not. In The Joy of x, Steven Strogatz expands on his hit New York Times series to explain the big ideas of math gently and clearly, with wit, insight, and brilliant illustrations. Whether he is illuminating how often you should flip your mattress to get the maximum lifespan from it, explaining just how Google searches the internet, or determining how many people you should date before settling down, Strogatz shows how math connects to every aspect of life. Whether you aced integral calculus or aren’t sure what an integer is, you’ll find profound wisdom and persistent delight in The Joy of x.

Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time by Dava Sobel. Lacking the ability to measure their longitude, sailors throughout the great ages of exploration had been literally lost at sea as soon as they lost sight of land. Lives and the fortunes of nations hung on a resolution. One man, John Harrison, in complete opposition to the scientific community, dared to imagine a mechanical solution: a clock that would keep precise time at sea, something no timepiece had ever been able to do. Longitude is the dramatic human story of Harrison's forty-year obsession with building his perfect timekeeper. Full of heroism and chicanery, it is a fascinating brief history of astronomy, politics, navigation, and clockmaking.

The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery. This book explores the emotional and physical world of the octopus—a surprisingly complex, intelligent, and spirited creature—and the remarkable connections it makes with humans. From New England aquarium tanks to the reefs of French Polynesia and the Gulf of Mexico, Montgomery befriended octopuses with strikingly different personalities—gentle Athena, assertive Octavia, curious Kali, and joyful Karma. Scientists have only recently accepted the intelligence of dogs, birds, and chimpanzees but now are watching octopuses solve problems and are trying to decipher the meaning of the animal’s color-changing techniques. By turns funny, entertaining, touching, and profound, The Soul of an Octopus reveals what octopuses can teach us about the meeting of two very different minds.

Storm in a Teacup: The Physics of Everyday Life by Helen Czerski. Helen Czerski offers this lively, entertaining, and richly informed introduction to the world of physics. Czerski provides the tools to alter the way we see everything around us by linking ordinary objects and occurrences, like popcorn popping, coffee stains, and fridge magnets, to big ideas like climate change, the energy crisis, or innovative medical testing. She provides answers to vexing questions: How do ducks keep their feet warm when walking on ice? Why does it take so long for ketchup to come out of a bottle? Why does milk, when added to tea, look like billowing storm clouds? In an engaging voice at once warm and witty, Czerski shares her stunning breadth of knowledge to lift the veil of familiarity from the ordinary.
Current Summer Reading List

Your Inner Fish: A Journey Into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body by Neil Shubin. The paleontologist and professor of anatomy who co-discovered Tiktaalik, the “fish with hands,” tells the story of our bodies as you've never heard it before. By examining fossils and DNA, he shows us that our hands actually resemble fish fins, our heads are organized like long-extinct jawless fish, and major parts of our genomes look and function like those of worms and bacteria. Your Inner Fish makes us look at ourselves and our world in an illuminating new light. This is science writing at its finest—enlightening, accessible, and told with irresistible enthusiasm.

NONFICTION: Social Issues

Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family by Amy Ellis Nutt. When Wayne and Kelly Maines adopted identical twin boys, they thought their lives were complete. But it wasn’t long before they noticed a marked difference between Jonas and his brother, Wyatt. By the time the twins were toddlers, confusion over Wyatt’s insistence that he was female began to tear the family apart. In the years that followed, the Maineses came to question their long-held views on gender and identity, to accept and embrace Wyatt’s transition to Nicole, and to undergo an emotionally wrenching transformation of their own that would change all their lives forever. Becoming Nicole chronicles a journey that could have destroyed a family, but instead brought it closer together.

The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives by Dashka Slater. One teenager in a skirt. One teenager with a lighter. One moment that changes both of their lives forever. If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance. A passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The Vance family story begins hopefully in postwar America. J. D.’s grandparents were “dirt poor and in love,” and moved north from Kentucky’s Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and eventually one of their grandchildren would graduate from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of success in achieving generational upward mobility. But as the family saga plays out, we learn that J.D.’s family struggled profoundly with the demands of their new middle-class life, never fully escaping the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma so characteristic of their part of America. Hillbilly Elegy is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.

The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion by Jonathan Haidt. In this “landmark contribution to humanity’s understanding of itself” (The New York Times Book Review), social psychologist Jonathan Haidt challenges conventional thinking about morality, politics, and religion in a way that speaks to conservatives and liberals alike. Drawing on his twenty-five years of groundbreaking research on moral psychology, Haidt shows how moral judgments arise not from reason but from gut feelings. He shows why liberals and conservatives have such different intuitions about right and wrong, and why each side is actually right about many of its central concerns. In this subtle yet accessible book, Haidt gives you the key to understanding the miracle of human cooperation, as well as the curse of our eternal divisions and conflicts.
Current Summer Reading List

**Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion** by Gregory Boyle. For twenty years, Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. This book distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by Christian faith. Arranged by theme and filled with sparkling humor and glowing generosity, these essays offer a stirring look at how full our lives could be if we could find the joy in loving others and in being loved unconditionally. These essays about universal kinship and redemption are moving examples of the power of unconditional love and the importance of fighting despair. Gorgeous and uplifting, *Tattoos on the Heart* reminds us that no life is less valuable than another.

**What Made Maddy Run: The Secret Struggles and Tragic Death of an All-American Teen** by Kate Fagan. From noted ESPN commentator and journalist Kate Fagan comes the heartbreaking and vital story of college athlete Madison Holleran, whose death by suicide rocked the University of Pennsylvania campus, and whose life reveals with haunting detail and uncommon understanding the struggle of young people suffering from mental illness today. The story became so much larger when Fagan started to hear from other college athletes also struggling with mental illness. This is the story of Maddy Holleran's life and her struggle with depression, which also reveals the mounting pressures young people face to be perfect, especially in an age of relentless connectivity and social media saturation.

**NONFICTION: Sports**

**Basketball Junkie** by Chris Herren and Bill Reynolds. *I was dead for thirty seconds. That's what the cop in Fall River told me. When the EMTs found me, there was a needle in my arm and a packet of heroin in the front seat.* 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. Heavily recruited by major universities, he was featured in a *Sports Illustrated* cover story at 17. At Fresno State, his gritty, tattooed, hip-hop persona drew the ire of rival fans and more national attention. 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. 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.

**Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen** by Christopher McDougall. Isolated by Mexico's deadly Copper Canyons, the blissful Tarahumara Indians have honed the ability to run hundreds of miles without rest or injury. In a riveting narrative, award-winning journalist and often-injured runner Christopher McDougall sets out to discover their secrets. In the process, he takes his readers from science labs at Harvard to the sun-baked valleys and freezing peaks across North America, where ever-growing numbers of ultra-runners are pushing their bodies to the limit, and, finally, to a climactic race in the Copper Canyons that pits America's best ultra-runners against the tribe. McDougall’s incredible story will not only engage your mind but inspire your body when you realize that you, indeed all of us, were born to run.

**A Different Kind of Daughter: The Girl Who Hid from the Taliban in Plain Sight** by Maria Toorpakai. Toorpakai hails from Pakistan's violently oppressive northwest tribal region, where the idea of women playing sports is considered *haram-un-Islamic*—forbidden—and girls rarely leave their homes. But she did, passing as a boy in order to play the sports she loved, thus becoming a lightning rod of freedom in her country's fierce battle over women's rights. Playing squash was also a death sentence, thrusting her into the crosshairs of the Taliban, who wanted Maria and her family dead. Maria knew her only chance of survival was to flee the country. Invited to train in Canada, Maria left everything she had ever known to pursue her dream.
Current Summer Reading List

**Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game** by Michael Lewis. Billy Beane, general manager of MLB's Oakland A's had a problem: how to win in the Major Leagues with a budget that was smaller than that of nearly every other team. Conventional wisdom long held that big name, highly athletic hitters and young pitchers with rocket arms were the ticket to success. But Beane and his staff, buoyed by massive amounts of carefully interpreted statistical data, defied tradition and his own scouting department to build a string of winning teams out of players that traditional scouting and thinking had consistently undervalued. This is the story of how outside-the-box thinking transformed the game of professional baseball. Besides being one of the best insider accounts ever written about baseball, *Moneyball* is populated with fascinating characters. An engaging read for sports fans, business people, and citizens of the information age.

**One Goal: A Coach, a Team, and the Game that Brought a Divided Team Together** by Amy Bass. In the tradition of *Friday Night Lights* and *Outcasts United*, *One Goal* tells the inspiring story of the soccer team in a town bristling with racial tension that united Somali refugees and multi-generation Mainers in their quest for state—and ultimately national—glory. When thousands of Somali refugees resettled in Lewiston, Maine, a struggling, overwhelmingly white town, longtime residents grew uneasy. Then the mayor wrote a letter asking Somalis to stop coming, which became a national story. While scandal threatened to subsume the town, its high school's soccer coach integrated Somali kids onto his team, and their passion began to heal old wounds.

**Slow Getting Up: A Story of NFL Survival from the Bottom of the Pile** by Nate Jackson. An unvarnished memoir of everyday life in the most popular sports league in America—and the most damaging to its players—the National Football League. After playing college ball at a tiny Division III school, Jackson, a receiver, spent six years with the Denver Broncos, where he alternated between the practice squad and the active roster, eventually winning a starting spot. Drawing from his own experience, Jackson tells the little known story of the hundreds of everyday, "expendable" players whose lives are far different from their superstar colleagues. From training camps, to off-season parties to game-day routines, debilitating physical injuries—including degenerative brain conditions—to poor pensions and financial distress, he offers a funny, and shocking look at life in the NFL, and the young men who risk their health and even their lives to play the game.