

# WLPCS SUMMER READING

Upper School – Summer 2017

## Why summer reading?

At Washington Latin, we require that students read over the summer for several reasons. Required texts establish themes for the year, and are frequently the focus of the first unit of the year in each class. They serve as touchstones and jumping-off points for year-long conversations about the essential thematic questions that are at the heart of English courses at Latin. We require summer reading to prevent any loss of reading skills over the summer; summer reading ensures that students are engaged in some of the same activities they pursue during the school year. We believe children learn to read (and think) best when they want to read; we require summer reading to promote reading for pleasure and assist parents in motivating students to read. We are trying to teach students to love reading. We think if children love books, they will do well in life.

## Requirements by Course

Students are required to read the book(s) listed for the grade they will enter in the fall. Students will also read from the US Independent Reading List. Students entering 9th grade may read choice books from the Upper School independent reading list or the 7th and 8th grade independent reading list.

- **English 9:** *The Last Book in the Universe* by Rodman Philbrick, one book from the Science Fiction section of the independent reading list and two choice books
- **Honors English 9:** *The Last Book in the Universe* by Rodman Philbrick, *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, one book from the Science Fiction section of the independent reading list and two choice books
- **English 10:** *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie and three choice books
- **Honors English 10:** *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak and two choice books
- **English 11:** *Kindred: A Graphic Novel Adaptation* by Octavia Butler, adapted by Damian Duffy, one book from the nonfiction section of the independent reading list and two choice books
- **English 12:** *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac, *Discovering Your Personality Type: The Essential Introduction to the Enneagram* by Don Richard Riso and Russ Hudson, one book from the classics section of the independent reading list
- **Honors English 12:** *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, *How to Read a Book* by Mortimer Adler and one choice book
- **AP Language and Composition:** *The Gettysburg Address: A Graphic Adaptation* by Jonathan Hennessey, *1984* by George Orwell and two choice books
- **AP Literature and Composition:** *How to Read a Book* by Mortimer Adler, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *The Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger and one choice book
- **Honors Humanities:** *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer, *Plato: Five Dialogues* (2nd edition), translated by G.M.A. Grube, revised by John M. Cooper and two choice books

# INDEPENDENT READING LIST

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## Nonfiction

***We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** -- In this adaptation of a speech given by Adichie, she defines what it means to be a feminist in the 21st century.

***Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad* by M.T. Anderson** -- When Leningrad was under one of the worst sieges in world history by Hitler, Dimitri Shostakovich responded by writing a moving and inspirational symphony.

***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates** -- Coates writes to his teenage son about what it means to be black in America today.

***Blood, Bullets, and Bone* by Bridget Heos** -- From Jack the Ripper to CSI: Miami, human beings have been fascinated by the process of solving gruesome crimes, both factual and fictional. This book tells the history of forensic science and its evolution from crude early methods to the cutting-edge techniques we use today.

***Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out* by Susan Kuklin** -- Six teens tell their stories of coming out as transgender in these honest interviews.

***Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March* by Lynda Blackmon Lowery** -- In this memoir, Lynda Blackmon Lowery tells the story of being one of the youngest protestors on the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery.

***What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions* by Randall Monroe** -- Have you ever wondered what science has to say about some silly questions like: "If there was a robot apocalypse, how long would humanity last?" or "What if you tried to hit a baseball pitched at 90 percent the speed of light?" This book gives answers!

***"Undocumented": A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League* by Dan-el Padilla Peralta** -- After coming to the U.S. legally with his family, Dan-el's mother's visa ran out and his family became homeless. Because of his dedication to learning and help from someone who saw his potential, he made it to Princeton.

## Classics

***There Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston** -- Janie Crawford tells the story of the love of her life after she was tried for his murder.

***Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley** -- In the year 2540, there is no violence, and everyone goes after what makes them feel good. Bernard thinks he wants something more, but the desire to fit into his society may win in the end.

***The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath** -- Brilliant and beautiful Esther Greenwood spends a summer at a prestigious magazine internship, but as the summer goes on, she falls under the grip of crippling depression.

***Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut** -- Billy Pilgrim journeys through time and relives important moments of his life, including the siege of Dresden.

***Native Son* by Richard Wright** -- In 1930s Chicago, Bigger Thomas is a victim of poverty and racism. When he kills a white woman in a moment of panic, there is no way out.

## Ancient World, Mythology, and Philosophy

***Sophie's World* by Jostein Gaardner** -- Sophie receives anonymous letters that teach her more about the history of philosophy. She uses what she's learned to unravel the mystery of Hilde, another young girl mentioned in the letters.

***Troy* by Adele Geras** -- This retelling of the events of The Iliad from the eyes of four teenagers connected to Helen and Hector is full of romance, drama and passion.

***Summer of the Mariposas* by Guadalupe Garcia McCall** -- Odilia and her sisters journey to Mexico to return the body of a dead man to his family. Their journey home to Texas is an epic that mirrors Homer's *Odyssey*.

## Historical Fiction

***In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez** -- Three sisters, Minerva, Patria, and María Teresa, stand up to the dictatorship of General Trujillo in the Dominican Republic.

***These Shallow Graves* by Jennifer Donnelly** -- Jo, a society girl in New York City, would like to be a reporter just like Nellie Bly. When her father seemingly commits suicide, Jo has her chance to prove his death isn't all it appears to be.

(+) ***Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Myers** -- In the late 1960s, Perry volunteers for the army when his college plans fall through. When he is sent to fight in Vietnam, he learns about the real horrors of war.

***Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepstys** -- East Prussian refugees Emilia, Joanna, and Florian are set to escape the horrors of WWII on the ship the Wilhelm Gustloff. When disaster strikes the ship, the teens must trust each other to survive.

***X: A Novel* by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon** -- Before he was known as Malcolm X, teenage Malcolm Little left his home in Michigan, spending time in Boston and Harlem, converting to Islam and changing his name.

## Horror, Mystery and Suspense

***We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart** -- Cadence Sinclair Easton lived an idyllic life every summer on her family's private island off Cape Cod. But, after a tragic and painful accident, she must untangle the truth about her lovely life from the lies.

(+) ***I Hunt Killers* by Barry Lyga** -- Jazz grew up watching his dad, an infamous serial killer, commit crimes. When bodies start to pile up around his town, he helps the police hunt down the killer using his insider knowledge.

***Burn Baby Burn* by Meg Medina** -- The scene is New York City, the year, 1977 -- the summer of arson, a major city-wide blackout and the notorious serial killer the Son of Sam. Nora meets a cute boy and wants to date him and stay out late,

even though she knows the killer likes to target couples like theirs. Little does she know, the more serious danger lurks even closer to home.

(+) ***Asylum* by Madeline Roux** -- When he arrives at a college summer program, Dan finds that the usual summer housing has been closed and he must stay in a converted psychiatric hospital. The secrets buried in the building will come back to haunt him and his friends.

***Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloane** -- When Clay starts to work at Mr. Penumbra's bookstore, he's disappointed to have lost his tech job due to a poor economy. But, then, he realizes it's a bookstore like no other. Customers come and go at odd hours and "check out" books from hidden corners of the store instead of buying them. What secrets does this store hide?

## Fantasy

(+) ***Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula LeGuin** -- In this fantasy classic, when a wizard reveals his true name, young Sparrowhawk becomes his apprentice. Fans of *Lord of the Rings* will likely enjoy this book.

***The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern** -- Two child magicians are pitted against each other in a mysterious lifelong competition that only one of them can survive. As teenagers, they meet, fall in love, and try to escape the contest with their lives and the magical world of the night circus intact.

***Uprooted* by Naomi Novik** -- Every year, the wizard known as the Dragon takes a girl from Agnieszka's village, and the girls never return. When the Dragon picks Agnieszka, she faces dangers she never dreamed of.

***This Savage Song* by VE Schwab** -- Kate is growing up in a city where violence and turmoil spawns literal monsters who can steal souls with their special songs. August is one of those monsters. In the midst of a war destined to tear the city apart, Kate and August's must each face their own monsters, both within and without.

***Wink, Poppy, Midnight* by April Genevieve Tucholke** -- Wink Bell loves stories. She's convinced that Midnight, the attractive new boy living nearby is the hero of a new tale, and Poppy, the preppy popular temptress that he's in love with is the villain. If Midnight is the hero and Poppy is the villain, what does that make Wink?

## Realistic Fiction

***Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson** -- After she tells the police about the events of a summer party, Melinda realizes that speaking out can have consequences, so she stops speaking nearly entirely. Only through learning to speak out again can she heal.

***Still Life With Tornado* by AS King** -- Sarah is traumatized her parents' turbulent marriage. As her past and future selves help her come to terms with the challenges she faces, she wonders if she's just stressed or legitimately going crazy. Either way, her life reminds her of the tornado that her friend Carmen drew -- a chaotic hiding place that whips around her emotional life.

***The Porcupine of Truth* by Bill Konigsberg** -- When Carson has to stay with the alcoholic father he doesn't really know in Montana over the summer, he's understandably upset. Meeting new friend Aisha, who is separated from her family because her father kicked her out after she came out as a lesbian, helps him not only have a better summer, but also explore his own family's past.

***Ball Don't Lie* by Matt De La Pena** -- Foster kid Sticky is a wonder on the basketball court, and it might be his ticket out of a dead-end life. But he'll have to learn to make the right choices to make the most of himself.

***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely** -- Rashad is mistaken for a shoplifter and mistreated by a police officer. Quinn, who is being raised by the officer, witnesses the abuse. As the boys take sides, they must make difficult choices and face harsh consequences.

# Romance and Relationships

***Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel* by Sara Farizan** -- Leila, a smart and talented Iranian American student, is worried about others finding out that she likes girls, so she never acts on a crush. That is, until she falls for Saskia, a beautiful and wild new student.

***Looking For Alaska* by John Green** -- When he goes to boarding school, shy Miles becomes captivated with a new group of brainy and worldly-wise friends, and he falls for his beautiful feminist roommate Alaska.

***All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven** -- After Finch, the school freak, watches Violet, a formerly popular cheerleader, nearly jump off the roof of a bell tower to kill herself, they start to see the world through each other's eyes.

***Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz**-- Ari and Dante meet at the pool over the summer, and, as they get to know each other, they share not only their Mexican identity, but also a never-ending friendship that could blossom into something more.

***The Sun Is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon** -- On one fated day in New York, Natasha, an undocumented Jamaican immigrant scientist, and Daniel, a Korean-American poet, meet and keep running into each other. Even their smallest interactions have a life-changing impact, bringing love into their too often unfair and uncomfortable realities.

# Science Fiction

***Ready Player One* by Ernie Cline** -- In the not-too-distant future, the OASIS (Ontologically Anthropocentric Sensory Immersive Simulation), a large multiplayer virtual reality game, has become the place where we live our lives. Parzival, a poor orphan from the trailer stacks in Oklahoma, and his virtual friends work together to solve puzzles placed by the OASIS's creator and defeat an evil corporation to find the keys to a vast fortune.

***Love Is the Drug* by Alaya Dawn Johnson** -- After the events of a party with political elite leave frightening gaps in DC teen Emily Bird's memory, she believes that she has uncovered secrets about her parents' work with a nation-wide flu epidemic -- if only she could remember them. With the help of her new friend and love interest Coffee, Bird works to uncover her parents' secrets before the disease destroys the country.

(+) ***Knife of Never Letting Go* by Patrick Ness** -- Because of an alien germ, male residents of the intergalactic colony city Prentisstown can hear each others' every thought. Despite the difficulty of doing so in a town where people can hear each other think, Prentisstown still hides its biggest secret. When Todd Hewitt discovers the secret on his thirteenth birthday, he knows he has to run for his life. But how can he hide when his pursuers can hear his thoughts?

(+) ***Steelheart* by Brandon Sanderson** -- In the future, Epics, dark and powerful supervillans, rule over major US cities. When Steelheart, the Epic that rules over Newcago, kills David's father, he plans his revenge.

(+) ***Unwind* by Neil Schusterman** -- After the second Civil War, the nation comes up with a creative solution to the abortion debate. Though abortion is not allowed under any circumstances, teenagers can be "unwound" and all of their organs transplanted into others. Four teenagers who are about to be unwound rebel against the cruel policy and start a teenage revolution.

(+) ***Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld** -- In Tally Youngblood's society, sixteen-year-olds have an operation to make them "pretty," and they live a life of parties and luxury. When Tally discovers a dark secret behind the "pretty" operation, she faces a difficult choice.