*Each student must read THREE books from the list below:

_The Lines We Cross_ by Randa Abdel-Fattah. _Realistic Fiction_. 2017. Australian teen Michael’s parents lead an anti-immigrant movement; Mina and her family Afghani immigrants. The pair’s mutual attraction provokes questions about family and identity.

_The Kitchen Boy_ by Robert Alexander. _Historical fiction_. 2003. What did the Romanovs’ kitchen boy Leonka, whom the Bolsheviks mysteriously spared, see in those final days of the Imperial Family during the bloody Russian Revolution?

_Speak_ by Laurie Halse Anderson. _Realistic Fiction_. 2009. A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda’s freshman year in high school, a year that brings her great struggle and, ultimately, growth.

_I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings_ by Maya Angelou. _Nonfiction; memoir; classic_. 1969. Angelou chronicles her childhood in 1930s rural Arkansas, including trauma she endured and the strength she gained from her grandmother and other elders.

_A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier_ by Ishmael Beah. _Nonfiction; memoir_. 2007. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them.

_Going Bovine_ by Libba Bray. _Adventure fiction_. 2009. Cameron Smith, a disaffected sixteen-year-old, is diagnosed with “mad cow” disease and sets off on a road trip with a video gaming dwarf and a yard gnome in hopes of finding a cure.

_The Jade Peony_ by Wayson Choy. _Historical fiction_. 1998. In pre-WWII Vancouver, Liang, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, befriends a retired railroader who encourages her to tap dance, while her brothers also discover their identities.

_My Losing Season: A Memoir_ by Pat Conroy. _Nonfiction; memoir_. 2002. The author reflects on his days at a South Carolina military college. He recalls his love of basketball and its value to him as a means of self-expression.

_A Northern Light_ by Jennifer Donnelly. _Historical fiction_. 2003. In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and become a writer, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. Based on a true story.

_The Count of Monte Cristo_ by Alexandre Dumas. _Adventure fiction; classic_. 1844. Edmond Dantes, a young sailor who is falsely imprisoned, escapes, and assumes a new identity on the island of Monte Cristo.

.Spanish Fly_ by Will Ferguson. _Mystery_. 2008. Trying to survive during the American Dust Bowl, young Jack lives with his father and gets by thanks to a solid repertoire of cons. Things take a turn when new scammers come to town.

_The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion and the Fall of Imperial Russia_ by Candace Fleming. _Nonfiction; history_. 2014. A poignant portrait both of the lives of the Romanovs and the plight of Russia’s peasants and urban workers and their uprising.

_Infinite Sky_ by C. J. Flood. _Realistic fiction_. 2014. After her mother leaves and her brother and father grow increasingly distant, thirteen-year-old Iris finds solace and friendship in Trick, a fourteen-year-old traveler boy.

_The Diary of a Young Girl_ by Anne Frank. _Nonfiction; memoir; classic_. 1945. The journal of a Jewish girl describes the joys and torments of daily life through two years spent in hiding with her family during the Nazi occupation of Holland.

_The Ocean at the End of the Lane_ by Neil Gaiman. _Fantasy_. 2013. When a middle-aged man returns to his childhood home in Sussex, England, for a funeral, he remembers eerie childhood events relating to the neighbor girl who promised to protect him.

_A Lesson Before Dying_ by Ernest Gaines. _Historical Fiction_. 1994. This novel explores the unlikely friendship and respect that arises between two African American men, one a teacher and the other an inmate on death row.

_Updated May 6, 2019_

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver. \textit{Historical fiction}. 1998. The story of the Prices, a missionary family who in 1959 move from the U.S. state of Georgia to the village of Kilanga in the Belgian Congo, close to the Kwilu River.

My Most Excellent Year by Steve Kluger. \textit{Realistic fiction}. 2008. Told in alternating perspectives, this is the humorous and touching story of ninth-grade best friends T.C. and Augie’s most excellent year of friendship and discovery.


Crooked Little Heart by Anne Lamott. \textit{Realistic fiction}. 1997. 13-year-old competitive tennis player Rosie Ferguson, her mother, and her stepfather experience the joys and sorrows of everyday life, all magnified as Rosie finds herself in peril.

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart. \textit{Mystery}. 2014. Summering on her family’s private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Cad, Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.

Born to Run by Christopher McDougall. \textit{Nonfiction, sports}. 2009. An outsider who befriends the Tarahumara Indians, leading to a running event between the tribesmen and American athletes, including a ultramarathoner, a surfer, and others.


I’ll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson. \textit{Realistic fiction}. 2014. A story of first love, family, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her twin brother Noah.

Run by Ann Patchett. \textit{Realistic fiction}. 2007. Set over a period of twenty-four hours and exploring locations across Boston, Run explores the lives of a complex family and the lengths parents will go to keep their children safe.

My Name is Asher Lev by Chaim Potok. \textit{Classic fiction}. 1972. When his uncle dies, orthodox Jew Asher Lev, a loner with artistic aspirations, must return to his native Brooklyn, where his art causes conflicts with his family and community.

Dodger by Terry Pratchett. \textit{Adventure fiction}. 2002. In an alternative version of Victorian London, a seventeen-year-old Dodger, a cunning and cheeky street urchin, rises in life when he saves a mysterious girl, meets Charles Dickens, and foils Sweeney Todd.

X: A Novel by Ilyasah Shabazz and Faxa Magoon. \textit{Historical fiction}. 2015. Recounts the childhood of civil rights leader Malcolm X to his imprisonment at age twenty, when he found the faith that would lead him towards activism and justice.

Betsey Brown by Ntozake Shange. \textit{Historical fiction}. 1985. Betsey is an African American seventh-grader growing up in St. Louis. This novel is based closely on the history of the school desegregation and Civil Rights movements in America.


The Scorpio Races by Maggie Stiefvater. \textit{Fantasy}. 2011. Nineteen-year-old returning champion Sean Kendrick competes against Puck Connelly, the first girl ever to ride in the annual Scorpio Races.

Updated May 6, 2019
The Age of Miracles by Karen Thompson Walker. *Science fiction.* 2012. Earth’s rotation has suddenly begun to slow, posing a catastrophic threat to all life. How is young Julia supposed to know how to grow up facing such a harsh reality?

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein. *Historical fiction.* 2012. In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage.


*Updated May 6, 2019*