



YORK COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

York Country Day School
Middle and Upper School
Summer Reading
2018

Dear Students,

Our goal for summer reading is to help you develop further as a reader. We believe strongly in reading for pleasure as well as for content. We encourage you to speak with family and friends about books that they have enjoyed reading, stroll around the local bookstore or library, read book reviews online. Be inspired and choose books that you will be able to get lost in. We have attached lists of possible free choice books in case you are having trouble choosing a book. Many of you are already avid readers, and the list is a way to give you ideas about titles or authors that may be new to you. The activity of selecting free reading books is a chance for you to find that genre, or style, or particular author that grabs your attention.

Reading permeates all parts of our school. As such, this year, the science department is excited to be choosing one of the summer reading books.

We hope that you will discover books that interest you, challenge you, bring you pleasure, and draw you into the story. This summer, carve out time in each day to devote to reading. Talk to others about books they have enjoyed. Wander around a bookstore and be inspired by displays. Check out the *Association for Library Services for Children's* list of summer reads for grades 6-8 [here](#) or their lists of books by topic such as STEAM, kindness, graphic novels, or pairings of fiction with nonfiction [here](#). If you are looking for middle or upper school book dealing with a specific culture or group, check out the *Diverse Books'* list [here](#). Find a quiet place and lose yourself in the stories. We look forward to discussing and writing about these books with you in the fall.

6th Grade: (total of 2 books)

- Science Department Choice (required):
 - [The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, Young Reader's Edition](#) by William Kamkwamba

OR

- [Isaac the Alchemist](#) by Mary Losure
- At least one book of your choosing
 - Suggested, but not required: *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio

Please choose a book that challenges you, intrigues you, and inspires you. If you are interested in recommendations, Mr. Church has offered the following as possible choices in preparation for your 6th grade history course, Heroes and Heroines: A Study of Ancient Civilizations. Suggestions: *The Cat Who Went to Heaven* by Elizabeth Coatsworth or any of the *Percy Jackson* series.

For your free choice book, you will lead a formal book discussion. For the book discussion, come to class on the first day of school with the following:

- 1 note cards describing the exposition (setting, characters, conflict)
- 1 note card describing the plot
- 1 note card with information about the author
- 2-3 note cards containing your personal review of the book. This should include author's writing style, what intrigued you/drew you into the novel, why you would recommend the book to your classmates.

7th Grade: (total of 3 books)

- Science Department Choice (required):
 - [Invincible Microbe: Tuberculosis and the Never-Ending Search for a Cure](#) by Jim Murphy
- One book from one of the above links (found in third paragraph)
- At least one book of your choosing

Please choose books that challenge you, intrigue you, and inspire you. In preparation for your 7th grade history course, History of the U.S. Constitution, Mr. Church has offered the following as possible choices (in order of difficulty): *Bloody Times*, by James L. Swanson, *Across Five Aprils*, by Irene Hunt, *1776* by David McCullough, or *Trail of Tears* by John Ehle.

For one of your free choice book, you will lead a formal book discussion. For the book discussion, come to class on the first day of school with the following:

1-2 note cards describing the exposition (setting, characters, conflict)

1 note card describing the plot

1 note card noting the themes

1 note card with information about the author

1 note card with information about how the author used literary elements and the writing style of the author

2-3 note cards containing your personal review of the book. This should include author's writing style, what intrigued you/drew you into the novel, why you would recommend the book to your classmates.

8th Grade: (total of 3 books)

- Science Department Choice (required):
 - Required: [Explore the Cosmos like Neil deGrasse Tyson: A Space Science Journey](#) by Cap Saucier, 2015. (177 pages.) Students must take mandatory, online "reading quizzes" for each chapter of the book. The scores of these quizzes will be added together and given the weight of a normal Earth Science quiz on the first quarter. It is suggested that these reading comprehension quizzes be taken immediately after reading each chapter. (Students are allowed to use their book, but only if they read the entire chapter first.) The quizzes will be posted before July 1st, and instructions for how to register for QuizStar will be e-mailed to each family, as well.
 - Suggested, but not required: [See You in the Cosmos](#) by Jack Cheng
- One book from one of the above lists
- At least one book of your own choosing. (Please do not read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Old Man and the Sea* or *Animal Farm*)

Please choose books that challenge you, intrigue you, and inspire you. In preparation for your 8th grade history course, Modern Issues in American History, Mr. Church has offered the following as possible choices (in order of difficulty): *Bomb*, by Steve Sheinkin, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, by Malcolm X and Alex Haley, *13 Days*, by Robert Kennedy or *Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson.

Be ready to share the stories with the class in the fall. For your free choice book, you will lead a formal book discussion. For the book discussion, come to class on the first day of school with the following:

1-2 note cards describing the exposition (setting, characters, conflict)

1 note card describing the plot

1-2 note cards describing the themes

1 note card with information about the author

1 note card with information about how the author used literary elements and the writing style of the author

2-3 note cards containing your personal review of the book. This should include author's writing style, what intrigued you/drew you into the novel, why you would recommend the book to your classmates.

9th Grade: (total of 4 books)

- Science Department Choice (Required):
 - [Evolution: The Story of Life on Earth](#) by Jay Hosler
 - OR
 - [Darwin Comes to Town: How the Urban Jungle Drives Evolution](#) by Menno Schilthuizen
- *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
- Two books of your own choosing (Please do not read *The House on Mango Street*, *Night*, or *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*)

10th Grade: (total of 4 books)

- Science Department Choice (Required):
 - [The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements](#) by Sam Kean
- *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger

- Two books of your own choosing which follow these guidelines: one work of fiction and one work of nonfiction which pertains to American Culture (a list of suggested titles is attached)

English 11/12: (total of 4 books)

- Science Department Choice: If you are taking Conceptual Physics, Physics, or Advanced Physics R&D, choose a book from the Physics list. If you are taking Advanced Biology, choose a book from the Biology list. If you are taking both or neither, choose a book from either list. You will be required to give a [PechaKucha](#) presentation at the beginning of the first quarter on your chosen book.
- One book from either the [UPenn Department of English '50 Book List'](#) or [Columbia University Core Curriculum reading selections](#)
- At least one book of your own choosing (Please do not read *The Things They Carried*, *Einstein's Dreams*, or *The Sunflower*)
- **Seniors** are to read: *TED Talks: The Official Guide to Public Speaking* by Chris Anderson (Chapters 1-9) in preparation for your "This I Believe Speech". Additionally, come to class on the first day with possible topics for your speech.

For your free choice book, you will lead a formal book discussion. For the book discussion, come to class on the first day of school with the following:

- 1-2 note cards describing the exposition (setting, characters, conflict)
- 1 note card describing the plot
- 1-2 note cards describing the themes
- 1 note card with information about the author
- 1 note card with information about how the author used literary elements and the writing style of the author
- 2-3 note cards containing your personal review of the book. This should include author's writing style, what intrigued you/drew you into the novel, why you would recommend the book to your classmates.

English 11/12 Honors: (total of 4 books)

- Science Department Choice: If you are taking Conceptual Physics, Physics, or Advanced Physics R&D, choose a book from the Physics list. If you are taking Advanced

Biology, choose a book from the Biology list. If you are taking both or neither, choose a book from either list. You will be required to give a [PechaKucha](#) presentation at the beginning of the first quarter on your chosen book.

- One book from either the [UPenn Department of English '50 Book List'](#) or [Columbia University Core Curriculum reading selections](#) (You will see overlap in these two lists.)
- One work from any author we will study in Anglophone Literature next year, so long as it is not the actual work we will study (a list of suggested titles is attached). It may also be helpful to review [this article](#).
- One book of your own choosing
- **Seniors:** selections from *TED Talks: The Official Guide to Public Speaking* by Chris Anderson (to be shared via Bulletins or email) in preparation for senior speeches

Happy reading!

The YCDS Science and English Departments

Mrs. Liz Charleston
6th, 7th, Biology
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Mr. Kevin Wells
8th, R&D, Conceptual Physics, Physics
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Ms. Kristen Spangler
English 10, Honors 11/12
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Mrs. Molly Wertz
English 6, 7, 11/12
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Mrs. Sarah Erb
English 8, 9
swertz2@ycds.org

Suggested Readings:

American Culture

- Stephen Ambrose *Nothing Like It In the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869*
- Tom Brokaw *The Greatest Generation*
- Daniel James Brown *The Boys in the Boat*
- Bill Bryson *I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Notes on Returning to America after Twenty Years Away*
- William Deresiewicz *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite & the Way to a Meaningful Life*
- E. Digby Baltzell *The Protestant Establishment: Aristocracy and Caste in America*
- Daniel James Brown *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*
- Timothy Egan *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl*
- Joseph J. Ellis *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*
- Barbara Ehrenreich *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*
- Claude S. Fischer *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character*
- Annie Jacobsen *The Pentagon's Brain: An Uncensored History of DARPA, America's Top-Secret Military Research Agency*
- Doris Kearns Goodwin *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*
- Doris Kearns Goodwin *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and the Golden Age of Journalism*
- Ulysses S. Grant *Memoirs and Selected Letters*
- David Halberstam *The Fifties*
- Laura Hillenbrand *Seabiscuit*
- Eva Hoffman *Lost in Translation: A Life in a New Language*
- Meriwether Lewis and William Clark *The Journals of Lewis and Clark*
- David McCullough *The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For*
- Eric Schlosser *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All American Meal*
- Wallace Stegner *Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs: Living and Writing in the West*
- Wallace Stegner *American Places*
- John Steinbeck *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*
- Alexis de Tocqueville *Democracy in America*
- Neil deGrasse Tyson *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry*

Hons. Eng.

Authors' List:

Suggested Titles

Bill Bryson *The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way*

---*In a Sunburned Country*

Kiran Desai *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*

Nadine Gordimer *July's People*

---*Burger's Daughter*

James Joyce *Ulysses*

---*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

Stephen Leacock *Nonsense Novels*

---*Arcadian Adventures with the Idle Rich*

Alistair MacLeod *The Lost Salt Gift of Blood*

---*As Birds Bring Forth the Sun*

Alan Paton *Towards the Mountain*

---*Tales from a Troubled Land*

---*Ah, But Your Land Is Beautiful*

Doris Pilkington *Under the Wintamarra Tree*

---*Caprice: A Stockman's Daughter*

George Bernard Shaw *Man and Superman*

---*Saint Joan*

---*The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism & Capitalism*

---*Arms and the Man*

Jonathan Swift *A Tale of a Tub*

Oscar Wilde *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

---*An Ideal Husband*

---*Lady Windermere's Fan*

---*A Woman of No Importance*

---*De Profundis*

Science Department: Physics List

“Big Picture” Books about the Universe

- [Cosmos](#) by Carl Sagan. 1980. 432 p. This landmark work of nonfiction, written by one of the greatest astronomers of the 20th century, explains our terrestrial origins in the context of the larger universe.
- [Origins: Fourteen Billion Years of Cosmic Evolution](#) by Neil deGrasse Tyson and Donald Goldsmith. 2014. 352 p. Essentially an “updated” version of the above book.
- [A Short History of Nearly Everything](#) by Bill Bryson. 2004. 544 p. A travel writer for most of his professional career, Bryson includes here almost everything he learned from pestering some of the brightest minds in mathematics, archaeology, anthropology, and science.

Accessible but “Deep” (or Mind Blowing!) Physics Books

- [A Brief History of Time](#) by Stephen Hawking. 1988. 240 p. In this classic work of science writing, Hawking explains the nature of time, black holes, and the Big Bang.
- [The Elegant Universe: Superstrings, Hidden Dimensions, and the Quest for the Ultimate Theory](#) by Brian Greene. 2003. 464 p. Greene is a professor at Columbia University, and this is one of *the* best works ever written explaining string theory to the layman.
- [The Fabric of the Cosmos: Space, Time, and the Texture of Reality](#) by Brian Greene. 2004. 576 p. In this work, Greene carefully examines the fundamental elements of our universe: time and space. He covers special relativity and quantum mechanics.
- [Stephen Hawking: A Graphic Guide](#) by J.P. McEvoy and Oscar Zarate. 2005. 176 p. A highly illustrated book presenting a biography of Stephen Hawking and explaining some of his most important scientific ideas.
- [Quantum Theory: A Graphic Guide to Science's Most Puzzling Discovery](#) by J.P. McEvoy and Oscar Zarate. 2014. 176 p. Another highly illustrated book, this one covers the history, scientists, and debates involved in the development of quantum mechanics as well as an introduction to that theory.

Non-textbook Physics Primers (Learn some physics before you take the class!)

- [The Joy of Physics](#) by Arthur Wiggins. 2007. 390 p. Written by a retired physics professor, this book will make “genuine fun out of rigorous science.” Proving that physics is “real life,” it includes quick and easy mini experiments you can do at home as you read along.
- [The Physics of Superheroes](#) by James Kakalios. 2006. 384 p. Teaches physics while explaining which super powers could or could not actually work in real life.
- [The Physics of War: From Arrows to Atoms](#) by Barry Parker. 2014. 320 p. Written for people interested in military history, this book discusses the development of weapons technology from chariots to atom bombs. It teaches physics using weapons of warfare as examples.
- [The Dialogues: Conversations about the Nature of the Universe](#) by Clifford V. Johnson. 2017. 246 p. “A series of conversations about science in graphic form, on subjects that range from the science of cooking to the multiverse.” Johnson was a science advisor for Agents of Shield, Thor: Ragnarok, and Avengers: Infinity War. He is a professor at the University of Southern California.

General/Human Interest

- [The Martian](#) by Andy Weir. 2014. 387 p. This bestselling novel should give you a deeper appreciation for space exploration and the science behind it that makes it all work.
- [Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!: Adventures of a Curious Character](#) by Richard P. Feynman. 1989. 400 p. “Can shatter the stereotype of the stuffy scientist.” -Detroit Free Press “A storyteller in the tradition of Mark Twain. Feynman proves once again that it is possible to laugh out loud and scratch your head at the same time.” -New York Times “Quintessential Feynman—funny, brilliant, bawdy...enormously entertaining.” -The New Yorker
- [Feynman](#) by Jim Ottaviani. 2013. 272 p. Graphic novel about Feynman. (See above.)
- [Physics of the Impossible: A Scientific Exploration into the World of Phasers, Force Fields, Teleportation, and Time Travel](#) by Michio Kaku. 2009. 352 p. Professor of physics at the City University of New York, Michio Kaku explores the physics of science fiction.
- [Physics of the Future: How Science Will Shape Human Destiny and Our Daily Lives by the Year 2100](#) by Michio Kaku. 2011. 416 p. In this book, Kaku takes a time out from work on string theory to make some realistic predictions about what life will be like in the future.
- [Trinity: A Graphic History of the First Atomic Bomb](#) by Jonathan Fetter-Vorm. 2013. 160 p. An historical graphic novel telling the story of the development of the first atomic bomb and the physics behind it.

Science Department: Biology List

- [Silent Spring](#) by Rachel Carson. 2002. 412 p.
- [Lab Girl](#) by Hope Jahren. 2017. 304 p.
- [Desert Solitaire](#) by Edward Abbey. 1968. 352 p.
- [Anthill: A Novel](#) by E. O. Wilson. 2010. 384 p.
- [On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection](#) by Charles Darwin. 1859. 336 p. One of the greatest works of science ever written, the cornerstone of modern biology.
- [The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks](#) by Rebecca Skloot. 2011. 381 p.
- [The Hot Zone: The Terrifying True Story of the Origins of the Ebola Virus](#) by Richard Preston. 1995. 448 p.
- [Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body](#) by Neil Shubin. 2008. 240 p. Shubin is an American paleontologist, evolutionary biologist, and the person who discovered *Tiktaalik*, a missing link between fish and amphibians and one of the first known tetrapods.