

TUSCALOOSA ACADEMY SUMMER READING LIST FOR RISING 7th & 8th GRADERS 2019 - 2020

Requirements: During the summer, students must read **THREE** books *not previously read*. Two of the three must come from the following list. The third book is considered free choice and does not have to come from this list. Any student may read more than the required amount. See Extended Reading Opportunities at the bottom of this list for more information on this.

Please do NOT read any of the books that we will do as a class during the coming school year. Here is what NOT to read:

7th grade – *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander ISBN9780544107717;
The Giver, Lois Lowry ISBN9780440237686;
Peak, Roland Smith ISBN978015206282;
Kaleidoscope Eyes, Jen Bryant, ISBN 9780440421900

8th grade – *The Outsiders*, S.E. Hinton ISBN 9780140385724;
**Alabama Moon*, Watt Key (BOYS ONLY) ISBN 9780312384289;
**Falling Over Sideways*, Jordan Sonnenblick (GIRLS ONLY);
ISBN 9780545863254 PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU ONLY NEED ONE OF
THESE TWO TITLES—NOT BOTH!
Macbeth, Shakespeare Made Easy Edition ISBN 9780812035711;
Black Duck, Janet Taylor Lisle ISBN 9780142409022

What to Do When You Finish a Book: Come to the TA Lower School Library any Wednesday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm during June and July to take an AR (Accelerated Reader) test on the book. **If you read a book that does not have an AR test**—be sure to have a teacher check for you because they can sometimes be listed in hard-to-find ways—there is a form to fill out on such a book. Forms are posted on the TA website, or you can pick up a hard copy in the computer lab of the English 7/8 Book Report Form for Fiction or the English 7/8 Book Report Form for Non-Fiction. These are only needed IF there is not an AR test available, however. All summer reading should be completed before school begins!

Note: For one of the three books you read, you will be asked to create a project during the first few days of class. The work will be done entirely in class, so you do not need to start a project at home. But be sure that you remember at least one of your books well enough to recall some details in order to make a good project.

Modern Fiction

Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer (any in the series), John Grisham Growing up with two lawyer parents, Theo Boone knows every judge and court clerk in town, and a lot about the law. Follow this thirteen-year-old “lawyer” as he gets pulled into courtroom adventures.

Ghost, Jason Reynolds Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down in this first electrifying novel in a series from award-winning author Jason Reynolds. Also in this series are **Patina, Sunny**, and **Lu** about other members of Ghost’s track team.

Skink No Surrender, Carl Hiaasen Richard is hunting his possibly abducted wild cousin with the help of a crazy, maybe homeless one-eyed man, who seems to have a lot of friends in high places and might be an ex-governor of Florida. Lots of fun and mystery with suspicious and nasty characters! **Others by this author you may read are Hoot, Flush, Scat, and Chomp.**

Whatshisface, Gordon Korman Cooper Vegas and his military family have moved so often that he’s used to classmates not knowing his name, but at the moment he has a bigger problem—his new phone is haunted by the ghost of Roderick Northrop, a boy from the sixteenth century. Also by this author are **Schooled, Ungifted, Restart** and **Slacker.**

Rebound, Alexander Kwame. Prequel to *The Crossover*, this is the story of Chuck Bell. In 1988, when he is 12, he is sent to stay with his grandparents, where he discovers jazz and basketball and learns more about his family’s past. Also by this author are **Booked** (about soccer) and **Swing** (about boxing).

Close to Famous, Joan Bauer When 12-year-old Foster & her mom move to a small West Virginia town to escape her mom’s Elvis-impersonating boyfriend, Foster begins a baking business that results in friendship, a solution for her reading problem, the possibility of her own cooking show, her mom’s budding singing career, & pure joy! Also by this author is **Peeled**, the story of how a high school newspaper staff solves a mystery in their town.

The Clique (any in the series), Lisi Harrison Read about the five girls of “The Pretty Committee” and “A-Lister” clique in this popular series of books. The Clique...the only thing harder than getting in is staying in.

Sure Signs of Crazy, Karen Harrington Even though it’s been ten years since her mother tried to drown her, twelve-year-old Sarah and her father are still struggling to pull their lives together. Sarah is writing letters to Atticus Finch and her dad is drinking too much. Sarah decides it’s time to change things.

The Afterlife of Holly Chase, Cynthia Hand This modern retelling of *A Christmas Carol* stars Holly, a seventeen-year-old terrible girl who is visited by three spirits who show her her past, present, and future. This book has been called fun, quirky, and

festive. Also by this author are ***My Lady Jane*** and ***My Plain Jane***, which tell of Lady Jane Grey and Jane Eyre. Her books are full of humor.

Jump, Ginger Rue Brinkley Harper is the “it” girl in her school. So imagine her horror when she wakes up in the body of a goth girl, a classmate she wouldn’t dare hang out with. Time and time again, she “jumps” into the body of others and is forced to become someone else. ***Brand New Emily*** ; ***Tig Ripley, Rock n’ Roll Rebel***; and ***Tig Ripley, Hard Rock*** are other recommended books by this author who used to teach at our school.

Trapped, Michael Northrop What happens when seven teens are trapped in their school during a terrible blizzard? The days add up, the snow piles higher, and the empty halls grow colder and darker--not to mention the pressure that forces a devastating decision.

The Someday Birds, Sally J. Pla Charlie’s life has been unraveling since his war journalist father was injured in Afghanistan. But a cross-country journey brings new adventure. A beautiful story of a boy, his father, siblings, a cross country journey, and a list of birds.

I’ll Be There, Holly Goldberg Sloan Raised by an unstable father who keeps them constantly on the move, Sam Border has long been the voice of his younger brother Riddle. But everything changes when Sam meets Emily Bell and, welcomed by her family, the brothers are faced with normalcy for the first time. Also by this author is ***Counting by 7s***, a heartwarming story about finding a place to fit in.

The Great Greene Heist, Varian Johnson Jackson Greene is a smooth operator on thin ice. Thanks to a series of elaborate, infamous pranks, he is banned from using a cell phone at Maplewood Middle School and is this close to getting expelled. But when his friend Gaby is going to lose the student council elections because of some dirty dealings between a power-hungry candidate and the greedy principal, Jackson quietly comes out of retirement. With the help of a tech expert, a honeypot, a driver, and a right-hand man, Jackson confidently orchestrates an intricate plot to reveal the principal’s scheme and win the election for Gaby. Its sequel ***To Catch a Cheat*** is also recommended.

Once and for All: A Novel, Sarah Dessen Is it really better to have loved and lost? This book by a very popular YA author explores the world of wedding planning, where crises happen daily. A romantic summer read. Also by Sarah Dessen are ***Saint Anything*** and ***Just Listen***.

Ghosts , Raina Telgemeir Cat’s family moves to northern California to help her little sister who has cystic fibrosis. The town has a huge Day of the Dead festival which at first frightens her, but she finds that Maya needs this reunion of family members and their dead relatives. A bestseller!

To All the Boys I've Loved Before, Jenny Han Lara Jean Song has never sent the love letters she wrote to the five boys she's loved. Then, one day, someone does it for her. Now, her secrets are out and her love life seems out of control. Optioned for a movie and has a sequel, **I Still Love You**.

Chloe by Design Series, Margaret Gurevich Follow the adventures of fashion-loving high-school student Chloe as she journeys through a reality-TV fashion design show and the exciting aftermath.

The Fourteenth Goldfish, Jennifer Holm Ellie's grandfather shows up one day, an event not altogether shocking. What is shocking, however, is that he has shown up as a child! Her scientist grandfather has found the secret formula to reverse the effects of aging. The only problem is that no one will listen to him, since he is just a child. He can't even get into his own lab. He and Ellie embark on an extraordinary adventure to access his formula and then determine whether the secret should be shared.

Historical Fiction

Al Capone Does My Homework, Gennifer Choldenko Suspicions escalate after Moose's family's Alcatraz apartment burns. Some blame his autistic sister, but Moose wonders if it's because his dad was promoted to assistant warden. Moose is determined to find out. Third book in series. **Al Capone Shines My Shoes** is also in this series.

At Somerton: Cinders & Sapphires, Leila Rasheed – If you like Downton Abbey, this is the new teen series for you. In 1910, at the wealthy Somerton estate, three girls face tough decisions about love and family and honor. They are thwarted by a wicked stepmother, a nasty stepsister, and a conniving lady's maid.

Hattie Big Sky, Kirby Lawson It's 1917 and 16-year-old Hattie Brooks suddenly finds herself owning 320 acres of land in Montana. As an orphan who's been passed from relative to relative, she's ready to settle down. But can she overcome the harsh winter weather, plant wheat & flax, and manage to keep her home? **Also recommended is Hattie Ever After.** In this sequel, Hattie leaves Montana to chase a bigger dream: becoming a reporter in San Francisco.

Chains, Laurie Halse Anderson As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old slave Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. **Also recommended is Fever, 1793 by the same author.** Teenager Mattie Cook helps her mother and grandfather run a coffee shop in Philadelphia. But things go wild when an epidemic sweeps through the streets. Mattie must learn to survive in a world gone mad.

***Babe and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure*, Dan Gutman** A boy and his father zip back in time to discover whether Babe Ruth actually predicted his home run in Game Three of the 1932 World Series. Gutman's account of Joey's strained relationship with his divorced father and his portrait of the intriguing, revered slugger against the backdrop of Depression-era New York are equally skillful. There are many others in this series: ***Ray and Me*, *Jackie and Me*, *Roberto and Me*...** Any in the series may be read.

***The War Outside*, Monica Hesse**, Teens Haruko, a Japanese American, and Margot, a German American, form a life-changing friendship as everything around them starts falling apart in the Crystal City family internment camp during World War II.

***The Ranger's Apprentice (any in the series)*, John Flanagan** 15-year-old Will, orphaned from birth, and small for his age, longs to be a knight. But on Choosing Day, he is selected to be a ranger's apprentice. He soon comes to realize that a ranger's job involves danger, and he puts his skills to use as he faces terrible monsters and learns about friendship, honesty, & other values. Fantasy and history combine in this highly readable series.

Salt to the Sea*, Ruta Sepetys** In 1945, World War II is coming to a close in East Prussia, and thousands of refugees are trying to find passage on ships to escape the Soviets. This fictionalized story based on a true tragedy is told in alternating narratives. Four different teens grapple with the bitter cold, the ever-present danger of falling bombs, and their own dark secrets. ***Between Shades of Gray* and *Out of the Easy by the same author are also recommended.

***Out of Left Field*, Ellen Klages** In 1957, inspired by what she is learning about civil rights, and armed with knowledge of female ball players, Katy Gordon fights to be allowed to play Little League baseball.

***Anastasia's Secret*, Susanne Dunlap** As a world war & the looming Russian Revolution threaten all they hold dear, Anastasia, the youngest daughter of Tsar Nicholas II, & her family are being held in captivity, where she falls in love with one of their captors.

***The Shakespeare Stealer*, Gary Blackwood (any in the series)** Widge is an orphan with a rare talent for shorthand. His fearsome master has just one demand: steal Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*--or else. Widge has no choice but to follow orders, so he works his way into the heart of the Globe Theatre, where Shakespeare's players perform. As full of twists and turns as a London alleyway, this entertaining novel is rich in period details, colorful characters, villainy, and drama.

***How High the Moon*, Karyn Parsons** A powerful story of one girl's journey to reconnect with her mother and learn the truth about her father in the tumultuous times of the Jim Crow South. It has been compared to *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle, Janet Fox. During WWII, to escape the London Blitz, Katherine and siblings are sent to a crumbling Scottish estate that's been turned into a boarding house where mysterious things are happening. Eerie and haunting. Has a good audiobook, too.

Non-Fiction/Biography/Autobiography

Apollo 8: The Mission that Changed Everything, Martin Sandler, A nation in need of hope, the most powerful rocket ever launched, and the first three men to break the bounds of earth: Apollo 8 was headed to the moon.

One Shot at Forever: A Small Town, an Unlikely Coach, and a Magical Baseball Season , Chris Ballard This is the story of a small town baseball team with hand-me-down uniforms and an English teacher with little baseball knowledge for a coach. Written by a senior writer for *Sports Illustrated*, this tells the true story of underdogs who find the heart to give their town something to celebrate.

Bonnie and Clyde: the Making of a Legend, Karen Blumenthal Traces Bonnie and Clyde's wild path from dirt-poor Dallas teens to their astonishingly violent end and the complicated legacy that survives them both. Features Bonnie's poetry, along with sidebar information on some of their many victims.

Lincoln: A Photobiography, Russell Freedman This book and its contents are based on Freedman's exceptional compilation of photographs, letters, and drawings concerning Lincoln's life and times. Each image is woven into an eloquent account of Abraham Lincoln's world and the issues surrounding him. Brings our 16th President to life.

Google It: A history of Google, Anna Crowley Redding, Looks at this history of Google, an internet search engine that reinvented how people work and live online..

Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon, Steve Sheinkin This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb complete with photos and documents. Sure to delight even those who find history boring, this book reads like a spy novel.

America Bowl, Don Steinberg This tempting book for football fans pits each US President with the corresponding Super Bowl—44 Presidents and 44 Super Bowls—to determine which institution wins. Sports enthusiasts will learn Presidents and history buffs will learn football.

Superman versus the Ku Klux Klan: The True Story of How the Iconic Superhero Battled the Men of Hate, Rick Bowers This book tells a group of intertwining stories

that culminate in the historic 1947 collision of the Superman Radio Show and the Ku Klux Klan. It is the story of the two Cleveland teenagers who invented Superman as a defender of the little guy and the New York wheeler-dealers who made him a major media force. It is the story of the Ku Klux Klan's development from a club to a huge money-making machine powered by the powers of fear and hate. A fast-paced read full of interesting history.

***Alexander Hamilton: The Outsider*, Jean Fritz** Most people know that Alexander Hamilton was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr, and that his face is on the ten-dollar bill. But he was much more than that, and here acclaimed biographer Jean Fritz explores all facets of his life. This lively biography sheds light on Hamilton's character and his place at the nation's beginnings.

***The Hiding Place*, Corrie Ten Boom** In World War II, Corrie Ten Boom and her family risked their lives to help Jews escape the Nazis, and their reward was a trip to Hitler's concentration camps. But she survived and was released--as a result of a clerical error--and now shares the story of how faith triumphs over evil. A riveting read.

***Into Thin Air*, Jon Krakauer** In this riveting story, the author describes his spring 1996 trek to Mt. Everest, a disastrous expedition that claimed the lives of eight climbers, and explains why he survived. A first-person account of a real adventure, the risks involved, and the human traits that resulted in both tragedy and heroism.

***1968: Today's Authors Explore a Year of Rebellion, Revolution, and Change*, Marc Aronson and others**, A collection of non-fiction stories including a memoir, personal essay, narrative, and travel writing that looks at the year 1968.

***Just Mercy: adapted for young adults: a true story of the fight for justice*, Bryan Stephenson**, Bryan Stephenson recounts many and varied stories of his work as a lawyer in the US criminal justice system on behalf of those in society who have experienced some type of discrimination and/or have been wrongly accused of a crime.

***Attucks! Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team That Awakened a City*, Phillip Hoose**, Charts the rise of the legendary Crispus Attucks High School Tigers in the 1950s, the first all-black school in the country to win a statewide basketball championship.

***Lincoln's Last Days: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever*, Bill O'Reilly, et al.** A gripping account of one of the most dramatic nights in American history--of how one gunshot changed the country forever. Adapted from Bill O'Reilly's bestselling historical thriller, *Killing Lincoln*, this book will have young readers--and grown-ups too--hooked on history. (www.goodreads.com)

***Brown Girl Dreaming*, Jacqueline Woodson** In vivid free verse, this award-winning author tells what it was like growing up black in both the North and the South in the

60's and 70's. In her unforgettable childhood stories, Woodson tells not only of her adventures on city and country streets, but also of her development as a writer. A Newbery Honor book for 2015.

How the Beatles Changed the World, Martin W. Sandler The Beatles' first appearance on the Ed Sullivan show, has been called "a night that changed the course of American culture." More than seventy million television viewers - the largest-ever audience for an entertainment show - watched the Beatles' performance that February 9, 1964. It was only the beginning.

Adventure/Fantasy/Mystery

Not if I Save You First, Ally Carter Six years ago Maddie lived in Washington, DC with her father, a Secret Service agent assigned to the President's family, and her best friend was Logan, the President's son. But after her father was wounded in an attempted kidnapping, they move to a remote cabin in Alaska with no phone and no internet. Logan doesn't respond to any of her letters. And then, he suddenly appears on her doorstep.

The Novice- The Summoner Trilogy, Book One, Taran Matharua In this *New York Times*-bestselling novel full of action and adventure, a blacksmith's apprentice can summon demons. But can he win a war? (***The Inquisition- Book Two and Battlemage- Book Three*** may also be read.)

Gathering Blue, Lois Lowry Lois Lowry once again creates a mysterious but plausible future world. It is a society ruled by savagery and deceit that shuns and discards the weak. Left orphaned and physically flawed, young Kira faces a frightening, uncertain future. Blessed with an almost magical talent that keeps her alive, she struggles with new responsibilities. Fans of *The Giver* will like this. Also by this author are **Son** and **Messenger**.

The Body in the Woods, April Henry Alexis, Nick, and Ruby come from very different backgrounds. Alexis has spent her life covering for her mom's mental illness; Nick's bravado hides his fear of not being good enough; and Ruby just wants to pursue her eccentric interests. The three teens meet when they join a Search and Rescue Team. They discover a dad girl in the woods and begin a danger-filled quest to find her killer.

Isle of the Lost: A Descendants Prequel, Melissa de la Cruz: A cleverly written story focusing on the children of the Disney villains and their adventures on their own evil island.

The Thing about Jellyfish, Ali Benjamin Suzy's best friend drowned, but she thinks there must be more to the story. So she sets off on an international journey through science and imagination that leads her to some surprising theories and ultimately, healing.

The Hunger Games (any in the trilogy), Suzanne Collins In the futuristic world of Panem, one boy and one girl are chosen to appear in an annual televised event called,

"The Hunger Games," a fight to the death on live TV. 16-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the Games. The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed.

The Testing (any in the trilogy), Joelle Charbonneau – Cia is selected, along with three classmates, for the Testing. Those who pass will go on to the university. She discovers that only those who pass will survive, and that mistakes have severe consequences. A twist on *The Hunger Games* theme. First book in a trilogy. ***Independent Study*** and ***Graduation Day*** are the next books.

The Trials of Apollo Book One: The Hidden Oracle, Rick Riordan. As a punishment, Apollo is made mortal. Events and characters from the Percy Jackson series are referred to, but this book can stand alone. Great audio.

Never Say Die, Will Hobbs - Nick, half-Inuit, and his older half-brother, Ryan, take a wildlife photography trip that turns into a fight for survival. They face many challenges and mishaps, including an encounter with a half-polar bear, half-grizzly.

The Program, Suzanne Young - With tragedy and sadness all around her, 17-year-old Sloane Barstow must remind herself constantly to control her emotions. If she doesn't, she too will be consigned to The Program, a place where memories are erased and young people are "cured." Suzanne Young's series starter takes teen readers into a dystopian world that somehow retain uncanny similarities to our own.

The Maze Runner (any in the trilogy), James Dashner Waking up in an elevator, Thomas can recall nothing more than his first name. But he soon learns that he's not alone, as kids welcome him to the Glade, an open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Every day the doors to the maze that surround them are opened, and each night, they are closed. Thomas & the others struggle to find out why they are here. Also by James Dashner (but not in this series) is ***The Eye of Minds***, a book which takes place inside a game. Michael is recruited by the government to stop someone in a virtual reality realm from killing gamers in real life. Lots of twists & turns! Its sequel is ***Rule of Thoughts***, which may also be read.

Loot: How to Steal a Fortune Jude Watson March and his twin Jules are the children of famous cat burglars and have their own set of skills which lead them to the hunt for the famous stolen moonstones. Friends, cons, betrayals, and close calls await! Fans of Gordon Korman's *Swindle* are sure to like this book.

Alex Rider (any in the series), Anthony Horowitz Described as very readable thrillers, these books feature Alex Rider, the boy James Bond. Action packed stories, sure to be popular with fans of suspenseful and dangerous missions. A great read for guys!

Maximum Ride (any in the series), James Patterson Meet 14-year-old Max and

her flock of friends who have escaped the lab where they were bred as 98% human and 2% bird. With their wings, they can soar above the earth, but they must escape part-human, part-wolf predators called Erasers. A compelling sci-fi series, these books propel readers from one adventure to the next.

The Hobbit (any in the series) J.R.R. Tolkien, Described by some as the best fantasy ever written, this classic tale follows Bilbo Baggins on an adventure that changes him forever. He has many challenges & mishaps on his journey to the lonely mountain including the climactic battle of five armies. Bilbo finds a magic ring along the way which leads to next book, ***Lord of the Rings.***

And Then There Were None, Agatha Christie Considered the best mystery novel ever written by many readers, *And Then There Were None* is the story of 10 strangers, each lured to Indian Island by a mysterious host. Once his guests have arrived, the host accuses each person of murder. Unable to leave the island, the guests begin to share their darkest secrets--until they begin to die.

Michael Vey: Prisoner of Cell 25, Richard Paul Evans (any in the series) Until recently, Michael Vey thought he was the only 14-year-old with a special secret power, but now he knows that there are others like him, and they are being hunted. First in a series that's predicted to be quite popular, this book deals with bullying, peer pressure, & much more.

The Scorpio Races Maggie Stiefvater It happens at the start of every November: the Scorpio Races. Riders attempt to keep hold of their water horses long enough to make it to the finish line. Some riders live. Others die. At age nineteen, Sean Kendrick is the returning champion. He is a young man of few words, and if he has any fears, he keeps them buried deep, where no one else can see them. Puck Connolly is different. She never meant to ride in the Scorpio Races. But fate hasn't given her much of a choice. So she enters the competition - the first girl ever to do so. She is in no way prepared for what is going to happen. (goodreads.com)

The Glass Sentence, S.E. Grove First in a new series, *The Mapmakers Trilogy*. In the Great Disruption of 1799, time itself broke apart and fragmented, stranding countries and continents in different time periods, some of them thousands of years apart. Thirteen-year-old Sophia lives with her Uncle Shadrack in New Occident Boston, discovering the magic and science of maps. When her uncle is kidnapped by those seeking a powerful artifact, Sophia must journey through a dangerous, shattered landscape to seek out help and answers. An ambitious fantasy debut plunges readers headlong into a complex world built around the very nature of time. A fluid mixture of magic and science combine with the dramatic setting to bring freshness to a familiar plot arc.

Red Queen, Victoria Aveyard The world is divided by blood—those with red and those with silver. A lowly Red, Mare Barrow is destined to serve the silver elite. But when her best friend is forced into the army, she risks everything to win his freedom. She ends up at the Royal Palace itself, where she faces more danger. Part of a vivid fantasy series where the only certainty is betrayal. Others in this series are **Glass Sword** and **Cruel Crown**. Any in the series may be read.

Catwoman: Soulstealer, Sarah J. Maas Two years after escaping Gotham City's slums, Selina Kyle returns as the mysterious and wealthy Holly Vanderhees. She quickly discovers that with Batman off on a vital mission, Gotham City looks ripe for the taking.

Batman: Nightwalker, Marie Lu Before he was Batman, he was Bruce Wayne, a reckless boy willing to break the rules for a girl who may be his worst enemy.

Legend, Marie Lu (any in the trilogy) What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. When these teens from very different worlds cross paths, action, suspense, and romance occur.

Divergent, Veronica Roth (any in the trilogy) In this dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is—she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself.

The Accelerati Trilogy: Tesla's Attic, Neal Shusterman And Eric Elfman Nick decides to have a garage sale to clear out all the old junk in the Victorian house they have inherited. But he discovers that this junk has mysterious properties and that a secret society of physicists called the Accelerati wants to get their hands on these items. Fast-paced, thought provoking, and scary! 1st book in a new series. 2nd book is **Edison's Alley**.

The Shadow Throne, Jennifer A. Nielsen King Jaron must save his kingdom & his friends from three invading countries, and he enlists every trick he knows to win. This is the end of a series, which should be read in order. The first two in the series are **The False Prince** and **The Runaway King**. Also by this author are **The Mark of the Thief** and **The Ride of the Wolf** set in ancient Rome and dealing with the lost treasures of Julius Caesar, chariot races, and so forth. Any in either series may be read.

***The Story of Owen, Dragon Slayer of Trondheim* E.K. Johnston** A contemporary fire-breathing, carbon eating dragon story in which vicious dragons have poisonous blood and must be killed with swords. Dragon attacks have increased, their breeding grounds are spreading, and Owen and his bard Siobhan better have a plan.

***The Copernicus Legacy: The Forbidden Stone* Tony Abbott** Uncle Henry's suspicious death starts Wade, Dad, stepbrother, and a few friends on a clue-filled adventure to find twelve relics of power. Danger and intrigue in a *DaVinci Code* for young adult readers! Part of a series. A pageturner with an interactive website, <http://www.thecopernicuslegacy.com/> Any in the series may be read.

***The Selection Series*, Kiera Cass** (any in the series) For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape the life laid out for them since birth. To be swept up in a world of glittering gowns and priceless jewels. To 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; and living in a palace that is constantly threatened by violent rebel attacks. Then she meets Prince Maxon...

Classics/Award Winners

***The Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne Frank** The remarkable & timeless words of a young girl who, for a time, survived the worst horror the modern world has seen, and yet remained an optimist at heart. Read by millions of people all over the world, this diary touches readers of all ages.

***Criss Cross*, Lynne Rae Perkins** Three fourteen-year-olds come to terms with change as they experience small town life in the 1960's. The book has drawings, photos, and alternating viewpoints of girls and boys. Winner of the Newbery Medal in 2006.

***The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, Brian Selznick** A young boy alone in Paris struggles to keep his identity secret and interpret the drawings of his late father. A big book with LOTS of pictures, this tale is an intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery.

***Rules*, Cynthia Lord** Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. But with an autistic brother, "normal" is not in the picture. In one summer, she gets a new neighbor, makes a friend unlike any she's ever known, and grows to appreciate her life as it is.

***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain** A lively, charming and light-hearted story about a rebellious young boy who thrives on playing hilarious pranks and is constantly getting in trouble for disorderly conduct of the most original kind. Under it all, though, he has a good and generous heart. Twain called this work a "hymn to boyhood," and it has been enjoyed for many years.

Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson Enjoy this classic tale of swashbuckling adventure upon the sea with young Jim Hawkins facing danger at every turn. Unforgettable characters like Long John Silver have entertained young readers for decades.

Monster, Walter Dean Myers Steve Harmon, 16, is accused of serving as a lookout for a robbery of a Harlem drugstore. The owner was shot and killed, and now Steve is in prison awaiting trial for murder. With hopes of being a filmmaker, Steve tells his story with a cinematic eye.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (any in the series), J.K. Rowling In this first novel of the Harry Potter series readers meet Harry Potter, a young orphan who discovers that he is a wizard. He makes close friends and a few enemies at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and, with the help of his friends, thwarts an attempted comeback by the evil wizard Lord Voldemort. A modern-day classic for all ages!

Dead End in Norvelt, Jack Gantos Winner of the 2012 Newbery Award, this book depicts two months in the life of the narrator, who has been "grounded for life" by his feuding parents. When his mom loans him out to help a feisty old neighbor with a most unusual chore—typewriting obituaries filled with stories about the people who founded his utopian town—Jack has some incredible experiences. The sequel, ***From Norvelt to Nowhere***, finds Jack and Miss Volker on a road trip south during the tensions of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Kira-Kira, Cynthia Kadohata Katie's first word is "*kira-kira*," the Japanese word for "glittering," and she uses it to describe everything she likes. It was taught to her by her older sister, Lynn, whom Katie worships. Both girls have trouble adjusting when their parents move the family from Iowa to a small town in rural Georgia, where they are among only 31 Japanese-Americans. Set in the 1950's, this lively, lovely, funny, and sad novel won the 2005 Newbery Medal.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith A classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century, this book is a poignant and moving tale filled with compassion and cruelty, laughter and heartache, crowded with life and people and incident. The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg has enchanted and inspired millions of readers for more than sixty years. The daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness -- in a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as incredibly rich moments of universal experience.

The Graveyard Book, Neil Gaiman It takes a graveyard to raise a child. Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be *completely* normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised by ghosts, with a guardian who belongs to neither the

world of the living nor the dead. There are adventures in the graveyard for a boy—an ancient Indigo Man, a gateway to the abandoned city of ghouls, the strange and terrible Sleer. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, he will be in danger from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family. (Review from amazon.com)

The House of Hades, Rick Riordan - Annabeth and Percy will try to seal the Doors of Death from the inside and the other five heroes must try to seal from the side of the living. If they are successful, how will Annabeth and Percy escape the underworld? 4th book in the popular ***Heroes of Olympus Series***. Any in this series may be read.

Echo, Pam Muñoz Ryan *Echo* is a grand, epic novel that tells the story of three children, all in dire circumstances, whose lives are changed by a harmonica that possesses magical powers. A moving tribute to the power of music. (amazon.com)

The Reader. Traci Chee. With overlapping stories of swashbuckling pirates and merciless assassins, this stunning series opener introduces a world where reading is unheard of and a young orphan struggles to discover her family's secrets. **The Speaker** is the 2nd book in the series, called *Sea of Ink and Gold*. (any in the series) *The Reader* won lots of awards, including an ALA Top Ten Best Fiction for 2017.

Extended Reading Opportunities: Double the required amount of books: read SIX off this list, and follow the procedure for testing as usual. If you are more ambitious, triple the required amount and read NINE books from the list, following the regular testing procedure. Your teacher will assign bonus points to your first quarter grade based upon your test scores/and or discussion with your teacher of the books read.