

Incoming sophomores (both English 3 - 4 and Honors English 3 - 4 students) must select **TWO** of the following texts to read over the summer. Please select books which you have not previously read. Assessments will be administered in the fall for each of the two texts selected:

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie (Realistic Fiction)**

This is the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to break away from the life he thought he was destined to live, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. *Based* on the author's own experiences, the book also includes drawings and sketches throughout.

***After the Shot Drops* by Randy Ribay (Realistic Fiction; Sports Fiction)**

"Basketball provides the backdrop for a friendship pushed to its limits in this tale told from the alternating perspectives of two teen boys [Bunny and Nasir] growing up in a tough inner-city neighborhood reminiscent of Camden, New Jersey. By and large avoiding upfront race talk, Ribay makes his point by drawing characters of color full of complexity and contradiction. A genuine touch of Filipino flavor—Nasir's mom grew up in the Philippines—demonstrates that one can step beyond reductive black/white-only portrayals of inner-city neighborhood life. A well-executed book featuring complex, diverse characters" (Kirkus).

***The Amazing Book Is Not on Fire: The World of Dan and Phil* by Dan Howell and Phil Lester (Non-Fiction)**

Since uploading their first ever videos as teenagers, Dan and Phil have become two of the world's biggest YouTube stars. Now they invite you on a behind-the-scenes journey, filled with absolutely essential advice, tons of humor, lots of awkwardness, and TMI honesty that they will probably regret.

***American Born Chinese* by Gene Yang (Graphic Novel)**

In an action-packed modern fable about the problems young Chinese Americans face when trying to participate in American popular culture, the lives of three apparently unrelated characters--Jin Wang, Monkey King, and Chin-Kee--come together with an unexpected twist.

***Ball Don't Lie* by Matt de la Peña (Sports Fiction)**

Seventeen-year-old Sticky lives to play basketball at school and at Lincoln Recreation Center in Los Angeles and is headed for the pros, but he is unaware of the many dangers--including his own past--that threaten his dream.

***The Book of Deadly Animals* by Gordon Grice (Non-Fiction)**

Award-winning writer Gordon Grice takes readers on a tour of the animal kingdom—from grizzly bears to great white sharks, big cats to crocodiles. Every page overflows with astonishing facts about Earth's great predators and unforgettable stories of their encounters with humans. Illustrated with awe-inspiring photographs of beasts and bugs, this wondrous work will horrify, delight, and amaze.

***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah (Memoir)**

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. Whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard times, being thrown from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or just trying to survive the life-and-death pitfalls of dating in high school, Trevor illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty.

***Boy in the Black Suit* by Jason Reynolds (Fiction)**

Soon after his mother's death, Matt takes a job at a funeral home in his tough Brooklyn neighborhood and, while attending and assisting with funerals, begins to accept her death and his responsibilities as a man.

***The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown (Non-Fiction)**

With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler.

***Bullet Point* by Peter Abrahams (Crime Fiction)**

The only thing Wyatt knew about his biological father was that he was serving a life sentence, but circumstances and a new girlfriend bring them together and soon Wyatt is working to prove his father's innocence.

***The Death Cure* by James Dashner (Science Fiction)**

In a final effort to complete the blueprint for the cure, Thomas must rely on the Gladers, with full memories restored, but Thomas does not trust Wicked and he remembers much more than they realize.

***The Duke of Bannerman Prep* by Katie A. Nelson (Realistic Fiction)**

A contemporary retelling of *The Great Gatsby*, this book is a mirror for anyone who's struggled to survive the cutthroat world of competitive high school.

***Dune\** by Frank Herbert (Science Fiction)**

**\*or any books in the *Dune* series**

The story of a young prince, Paul Atreides, scion of a star-crossed dynasty, and of his journey from boy to warrior to ruler of a dying planet destined to become a paradise regained.

***Eagle Blue: A Team, a Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska* by Michael D'Orso (Non-Fiction)**

Follow the Fort Yukon Eagles, winners of six regional championships in a row, through the course of an entire 28-game season, from their first day of practice in late November to the Alaska State Championship Tournament in March. With insight, frankness, and compassion, Michael D'Orso climbs into the lives of these fourteen boys, their families, and their coach.

***Every Man for Himself: Ten Short Stories About Being a Guy* edited by Nancy Mercado (Fiction, Short Stories)**

An anthology of ten original short stories about such things as family problems, sexuality, and courage, written by well-known authors.

***Going Bovine* by Libba Bray (Humorous Fiction)**

Cameron Smith, a disaffected sixteen-year-old diagnosed with mad cow disease, sets off on a road trip with a death-obsessed, video-gaming dwarf he meets in the hospital in an attempt to find a cure.

***The Grand Escape: The Greatest Prison Breakout of the 20th Century* by Neal Bascomb (Nonfiction)**

At the height of World War I, as battles raged in the trenches and in the air, another struggle for survival was being waged in the most notorious POW camp in all of Germany: Holzminden. A land-locked Alcatraz of sorts, it was home to the most troublesome Allied prisoners--and the most talented at escape.

***Grasshopper Jungle* by Andrew Smith (Science Fiction)**

Sixteen-year-old Austin Szerba interweaves the story of his Polish legacy with the story of how he and his best friend, Robby, brought about the end of humanity and the rise of an army of unstoppable, six-foot tall praying mantises in small-town Iowa. Ultimately, it's up to Austin to save the world and propagate the species in this sci-fright journey of survival, sex, and the complex realities of the human condition.

***The Great Santini* by Pat Conroy (Realistic Fiction)**

The novel exposes the love-hate relationship between Ben and his father—a hard-nosed Marine fighter pilot—and the lengths Ben goes to in an effort to win his father's acceptance and love.

***The Greatest: Muhammad Ali* by Walter Dean Myers (Biography)**

A riveting portrait of the world's greatest boxer chronicles his childhood, his rise as a champion, his politics, and his battle against Parkinsons' disease to demonstrate his accomplishments both inside and outside the ring.

***Growing up Filipino: Stories for Young Adults* collected and edited by Cecilia Manguerra Brainard (Short Stories)**

Twenty-nine compelling selections authored by individuals who live in the Philippines, have emigrated, or are American-born. This fine collection, examining themes of family, friendship, love, and home, provides a varied portrait of Filipino youth today.

***The Guns of Navarone* by Alistair MacLean (Historical Fiction)**

When an all-out naval bombardment fails to silence the German artillery on the cliffs at Navarone, five men, each a specialist in violence, death, and destruction, are sent on a commando raid to destroy the guns.

***Half a King (Shattered Sea #1)* by Joe Abercrombie (Fantasy)**

Prince Yarvi has vowed to regain a throne he never wanted. But first he must survive cruelty, chains and the bitter waters of the Shattered Sea itself. And he must do it all with only one good hand. But even with loyal friends at his side, Yarvi's path may end as it began – in twists, and traps and tragedy...

***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: The Authorized Collection* adapted by John Carnell (Graphic Novel)** Arthur Dent is plucked from his Earth by his friend Ford seconds before it is demolished to make way for a hyper-space bypass. Ford, posing as an out-of-work actor, is a researcher for the revised edition of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. Together the gruesome twosome begin their now-famous intergalactic journey through time and space.

***Homeland* by Cory Doctorow (Adventure Fiction)**

When Marcus, once called M1k3y, receives a flash drive containing evidence of corporate and governmental treachery, his job, fame, family, and well-being, as well as his reform-minded employer's election campaign, are all endangered.

***La Línea* by Ann Jaramillo (Realistic fiction)**

Miguel has dreamed of joining his parents in California since the day they left him behind in Mexico six years, eleven months, and twelve days ago. The trip north to the border—*la línea*—is fraught with dangers, and it's almost impossible with his tagalong sister in tow. Their money gone and their hopes nearly dashed, Miguel and his sister have no choice but to hop the infamous *mata gente* as it races toward the border. But they quickly learn that you can't always count on dreams—even the ones that come true.

***Lockdown: Escape from Furnace* by Alexander Gordon Smith (Science Fiction)**

When fourteen-year-old Alex is framed for murder, he becomes an inmate in the Furnace Penitentiary, where brutal inmates and sadistic guards reign, boys who disappear in the middle of the night sometimes return weirdly altered, and escape might just be possible.

***The Odyssey of Sergeant Jack Brennan* by Bryan Doerries (Graphic Novel)**

Jack Brennan is a Marine Corps sergeant whose infantry squad has been cleared to return home from a grueling deployment to Afghanistan. By retelling Homer's epic about Odysseus' difficult journey home after the Trojan War, and weaving in the stories of contemporary Marines, Brennan speaks to the profound challenges today's veterans face upon returning from combat.

***Revolver* by Marcus Sedgwick (Adventure Fiction)**

Fourteen-year-old Sig is stranded at a remote cabin in the Arctic wilderness with his father, who died just hours earlier after falling through the ice, when a terrifying man arrives, claiming Sig's father owes him a share of a horde of stolen gold and that he will kill Sig if he does not get his money.

***Sacred Hoops: Spiritual Lessons as a Hardwood Warrior* by Phil Jackson and Hugh Delehanty (Autobiography)**

In his thought-provoking memoir, he revealed how he directs his players to act with a clear mind -- not thinking, just doing; to respect the enemy and be aggressive without anger or violence; to live in the moment and stay calmly focused in the midst of chaos; to put the "me" in service of the "we" -- all lessons applicable to any person's life, not just a professional basketball player's.

***Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune* by Pamela S. Turner (Biography)**

Chronicles the life and career of samurai Minamoto Yoshitsune, discussing his exile as a child, running away as a teenager, becoming a military genius and more.

***Sunrise over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers (War Fiction)**

Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

***Theft of Swords (The Riyria Revelations #1 and #2)* by Michael J. Sullivan (Fantasy)**

**\*This selection is actually two books in one omnibus edition - *The Crown Conspiracy* and *Avempartha*. Read *The Crown Conspiracy* and it counts as one of your summer choices program selections; read *The Crown Conspiracy and Avempartha* (the entirety of *Theft of Swords*) and it counts as both of your summer choices program selections.**

Royce Melborn, a skilled thief, and his mercenary partner, Hadrian Blackwater, make a profitable living carrying out dangerous assignments for conspiring nobles-until they are hired to pilfer a famed sword. What appears to be just a simple job finds them framed for the murder of the king and trapped in a conspiracy that uncovers a plot far greater than the mere overthrow of a tiny kingdom.

***The Things a Brother Knows* by Dana Reinhart (Realistic Fiction)**

Although they have never gotten along well, seventeen-year-old Levi follows his older brother Boaz, an ex-Marine, on a walking trip from Boston to Washington, D.C. in hopes of learning why Boaz is completely withdrawn.

***This is Where it Ends* by Marieke Nijkamp (Fiction)**

Minutes after the principal of Opportunity High School in Alabama finishes her speech welcoming the student body to a new semester, they discover that the auditorium doors will not open and someone starts shooting as four teens, each with a personal reason to fear the shooter, tell the tale from separate perspectives.

***The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* by Malcolm Gladwell (Non-Fiction)**

The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. This widely acclaimed bestseller, in which Malcolm Gladwell explores and brilliantly illuminates the tipping point phenomenon, is already changing the way people throughout the world think about selling products and disseminating ideas.

***The Wasp that Brainwashed the Caterpillar : Evolution's Most Unbelievable Solutions to Life's Biggest Problems* by Matt Simon (Science non-fiction)**

*The Wasp That Brainwashed the Caterpillar* is a jaunt through evolution's most unbelievable, most ingenious solutions to the problems of everyday life. Join *Wired* science writer Matt Simon as he introduces you to the creatures that have it figured out, the ones that joust with their mustaches or choke sharks to death with snot, all in a wild struggle to survive and, of course, find true love.

***We are the Ants* by Shaun David Hutchinson (Science Fiction)**

Henry Denton has spent years being periodically abducted by aliens. Then the aliens give him an ultimatum: The world will end in 144 days, and all Henry has to do to stop it is push a big red button. Only he isn't sure he wants to.