2017 SUGGESTED READING LIST

UPPER SCHOOL

Please choose any two books to read from this list over the summer

NON FICTION

**League of Denial: The NFL, Concussions and the Battle for Truth** by Mark Fainaru-Wada and Steve Fainaru

Award winning ESPN investigative reporters Mark Fainaru-Wada and Steve Fainaru tell the story of a public health crisis that emerged from the playing fields of our 21st century pastime. Everyone knew that football was violent and dangerous, but what the players who built the NFL into a $10 billion industry didn’t know is that no amount of padding could protect the human brain from the force generated by modern football. *League of Denial* examines how the league used its power and resources to attack independent scientists and elevate its own flawed research.

**Perfect Horse: The Daring U.S. Mission to Rescue the Priceless Stallions Kidnapped by the Nazis** by Elizabeth Letts

In the chaotic final days of the war, a small troop of battle-weary American soldiers capture a German spy and make an astonishing find: his briefcase contains photos of beautiful white horses that have been kept on a secret farm behind enemy lines. Hitler has stockpiled the world's finest purebreds, but with the starving Russian army closing in, the animals are in imminent danger of being slaughtered for food. With only hours to spare, one of the U.S. Army's last great cavalrmen, Colonel Hank Reed, makes a bold decision to mount a covert rescue operation. Racing against time, Reed's small but determined force of soldiers, aided by several turncoat Germans, steal across enemy lines in a final effort to save the horses.

**Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World** by the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and Douglas Adams

Two spiritual giants. Five days. One timeless question. His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering? This book offers us a rare opportunity to experience their astonishing and unprecedented week together, from the first embrace to the final good-bye.

**Zookeeper's Wife** by Diane Ackerman

When Germany invaded Poland, Stuka bombers devastated Warsaw, and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals dead, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews in empty cages. Jan, active in the Polish resistance, kept ammunition buried in the elephant enclosure and stashed explosives in the animal hospital. Meanwhile, Antonina kept her unusual household afloat, caring for both its human and animal inhabitants. With her exuberant prose and exquisite sensitivity to the natural world, Diane Ackerman engages us viscerally in the lives of the zoo animals, their keepers, and their hidden visitors.
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**Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis** by J. D. Vance

*Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis: that of white, working-class Americans. The decline of this group, which has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm. Yet never before has it been written about from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck. A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, *Hillbilly Elegy* is the story of how upward mobility really feels, and serves as an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream.

**Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg** by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg never asked for fame—she was just trying to make the world a little better and a little freer. Along the way, this feminist pioneer's searing dissents and steely strength have inspired millions. *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* is a story by a young lawyer and an award-winning journalist that takes you behind the myth for an intimate, irreverent look at the justice's life. As America struggles with the unfinished business of gender equality and civil rights, Ginsburg stays fierce. And if you don't know, now you know.

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

It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed from the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain. Yet they went on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. At the heart of the tale is Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects. He rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard, but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys' own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime dream, Brown has created an unforgettable portrait of an era, a celebration of achievement, and a chronicle of one extraordinary young man's personal journey.

**Between the World and Me** by Ta-Nehisi Coates

National Book Award Winner - In a series of essays, written as a letter to his son, Coates confronts the notion of race in America and how it has shaped American history, many times at the cost of black bodies and lives. Thoughtfully exploring personal and historical events, from his time at Howard University to the Civil War, the author poignantly asks and attempts to answer difficult questions that plague modern society.
Dear Bully: Seventy Authors Tell Their Stories edited by Megan Kelley Hall & Carrie Jones

Dear Bully is a powerful addition to the growing collection of materials that deal with the pervasive issue of bullying. Both young adult and children's authors have stepped up to share their own experiences through stories, poems, letters, and comics. Each story is as different as they are alike: exploring feelings of powerlessness, lack of support, and the feeling of sheer invisibility. For these contributors, writing was an escape from their pain. From loners and misfits to “popular kids,” these pages capture a wide-spread epidemic in how we treat others.

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson

It is a story that many of us think we know but don’t, and Erik Larson tells it thrillingly, switching between hunter and hunted while painting a larger portrait of America at the height of the Progressive Era. Full of glamour and suspense, Dead Wake brings to life a cast of evocative characters, from famed Boston bookseller Charles Lauriat to pioneering female architect Theodate Pope to President Woodrow Wilson, a man lost to grief, dreading the widening war but also captivated by the prospect of new love.

The Wright Brothers by David McCullough

Orville and Wilbur Wright will always be remembered by the general public for December 17, 1903. It was that day at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, when the brothers first flew a heavier-than-air vehicle. Of course, the brothers had accomplishments and interesting lives that both preceded and followed that triumphant day, and this fine biography by esteemed historian David McCullough shows the days in between. McCullough offers an interesting portrait of their youth in Dayton, Ohio, an examination of life in post-Civil War Middle America, and insight into the men who did so much more than fly.

Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah

This absorbing account, written by a young man who was swept up in Sierra Leone's civil war at the age of twelve, goes beyond even the best journalistic efforts in revealing the life and mind of a child abducted into the horrors of warfare. Beah's harrowing journey transforms him overnight from a child enthralled by American hip-hop music, to a refugee bereft of family and wandering in a deeply divided country. Beah then finds himself in the army in a drug-filled life of casual mass slaughter that lasts until he is fifteen, when he is brought to a rehabilitation center sponsored by UNICEF and partnering NGOs. Told in clear, accessible language by a young writer with a gifted literary voice, this memoir is a classic firsthand account of war and the ongoing plight of child soldiers in conflicts worldwide.
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We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement that Defied Adolf Hitler by Russell Freeman

In this smoothly written book, Freedman tells the story of Austrian-born Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie, who belonged to Hitler Youth as young children but began to doubt the Nazi regime. Through prose, as well as many black-and-white photographs, We Will Not Be Silent is an inspiring recount of the brief and tragic lives of the Scholl children, as well as their influence on the world’s perception of Nazi Germany. Along with other young people, these two produced freedom-extolling anti-government leaflets, of which thousands of copies were distributed. Even when the siblings were gone, the White Rose movement lived on, turning the Scholls into heroes of legendary status.

FICTION

Glass Sword by Victoria Aveyard

Anyone can betray anyone. It is a lesson that thief-turned-revolutionary, Mare Barrow, learned the hard way in Red Queen (2015). After she learns the truth about Maven, now the king of the powerful Silver court, Mare and the displaced Silver prince, Cal, flee the city, tenuously joining up with a resistance group. But Mare has learned that she is not the only Red with magical Silver-like abilities, and soon finds herself recruiting the others. She is determined to form an army but to do so, she must become a leader willing to make sacrifices, and the cost may be higher than she ever anticipated.

Last Night at the Circle Cinema by Emily Franklin

Olivia, Bertucci, and Codman were the trio no one else in high school could quite figure out, a triangle of friendship. Now, they’re graduating and about to start new lives away at college without one another. Beyond their friendship, there’s one thing they have in common: the Circle Cinema. It is a once-thriving movie theater now reduced to a boarded up concrete box, condemned and about to be forgotten forever - which is, as far as Olivia and Codman can tell, a lot like what's going to happen to them. In one last effort to hold on to the secrets they share, Bertucci convinces Olivia and Codman to spend their last night before graduation inside the cinema. Over the course of the night, the trio is forced to face one another, the events of the past year, and whatever is to come when the new day dawns.

When the Moon was Ours by Anna Marie McLemore

Best friends Miel and Sam are strange and inseparable. Roses grow out of Miel's wrist and Sam is known for the moons he paints and hangs in the trees. But as odd as everyone considers Miel and Sam, even they stay away from the Bonner girls, four beautiful sisters rumored to be witches. Now they want the roses that grow from Miel's skin, convinced that their scent can make anyone fall in love. And they're willing to use every secret Miel has fought to protect to make sure she gives them up.
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All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

2015 Pulitzer Prize Winner - Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. At six, Marie-Laure goes blind and when she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris. Forced to flee to the citadel of Saint-Malo, the pair carry with them the museum’s most valuable and dangerous jewel.
In Germany, Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, winning a place at an academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge.

The Killing Jar by Jennifer Bosworth

Kenna is a talented musician who lives an isolated life with her twin sister and mother. Kenna is also a murderer. At age ten, she took revenge on a neighbor boy who tormented her sister, killing him with her touch. Under strict orders from her mother to hide what happened, Kenna withdrew from friends, finding solace in her guitar. Now seventeen, she has gotten recognition of her musical gift at a local folk festival. Returning home from a triumphant performance, she finds her mother and sister bleeding with their attacker still in the house, and is forced to use her powers to save her family. Frightened by Kenna's actions, her mother takes her to a commune of similarly gifted people, the Kalyptra, where she uncovers many dark family secrets, forcing her to choose how best to navigate through a moral thicket.

Passenger by Alexandra Bracken

Violin prodigy Etta has sacrificed a lot for her music, including most of her personal life. Her New York City solo debut is fast approaching, though, and it makes everything seem worth it. However, just as she's on the brink of success, Etta finds herself floored by a tragedy that reveals her as one of the Ironwoods. They are an ancient, feuding family of time travelers, and they need Etta to find a mysterious object. Etta soon finds herself on a voyage accompanied by sailor Nicholas, an illegitimate, biracial member of the Ironwood family who wants nothing more than to escape their influence. Together, Etta and Nicholas skip through time on their search, dealing not only with heightened stakes from the Ironwoods but also the difficulties in the historical places they travel through.

Tell Me Three Things by Julie Buxbaum

When Jessie moves from Chicago to California after her father elopes, her life is turned upside down. Now with a stepfamily, a fancy school, a mean girl out to get her, and lingering grief over her mother’s death, Jessie receives an anonymous e-mail with tips on how to survive her new home. Soon Jessie and Somebody/Nobody (aka SN) are chatting all the time. Jessie feels caught between her old life and trying to belong in her new one, in addition to the challenge of growing up without her mother and with a father who is growing more distant.
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*Don’t Get Caught* by Kurt Dinan

Max is boring—not that smart, not that funny, not that noticeable. So when he gets a letter from his school’s notorious pranksters, the Chaos Club, he has a choice to make: does he stay plain, boring Max, or does he seize the chance to make life a little more like his favorite heist movies? Of course, the letter turns out to be a setup, and Max finds himself caught up in the middle of an anti-establishment, revenge-driven prank war. Sure, he may land himself on the wrong side of the law, but he also finally has friends. Nothing, however, is what it seems, and as in every good heist movie, someone is a double-cropper. Funny, clever, and playful, this debut is an enjoyable romp that pairs high-stakes cons with a ragtag gang of high-school misfits.

*The Great American Whatever* by Tim Federle

Quinn Roberts is a sixteen-year-old smart aleck and Hollywood hopeful whose only worry used to be writing convincing dialogue for the movies he made with his sister Annabeth. Of course, that was all before—before Quinn stopped going to school, before his mom started sleeping on the sofa...and before the car accident took his sister. We follow Quinn through his challenges with his grief, his new-found love, his discovery of secrets about his friend and sister, and his reluctance to let go. Slowly, he hopes to learn to stop living in the past and follow his dreams in the future.

*Genius: The Game* by Leopoldo Gout

This exciting series starter follows the lives of three teenage geniuses: Rex, an ace coder and the son of illegal Mexican immigrants; Tunde, an impoverished, self-taught Nigerian engineering prodigy; and Painted Wolf, a middle-class Chinese girl with a talent for ferreting out corruption. Best friends who have only met online, they get caught up in the Game, an international competition run by eighteen-year-old CEO Kiran Biswas. Painted Wolf discovers hints that Biswas's ostensibly humanitarian motives are suspect and that he may actually be working with a corrupt Chinese industrialist and a vicious African warlord. It's a fast-moving story that presents its protagonists with intriguing moral choices, and all three bring thorny personal problems to the contest, too.

*The Sun Is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon

Natasha and Daniel are polar opposites. Tasha, whose family is here illegally from Jamaica, believes in reason, science, and things that can be proven. Daniel, the son of Korean shopkeepers, is a poet at heart and believes in Fate, the “meant to be,” and true love. On an eventful day in New York City, these two cross paths -- Daniel is on his way to an interview with a Yale alum, Natasha is meeting with a lawyer to try and prevent her family's deportation to Jamaica -- and fall in love. When circumstances beyond their control force them together, they have exactly one day for everything to come together.
The Girl Who Was Supposed to Die by April Henry

Cady, 16, wakes up on the floor of a cabin, two fingernails yanked out, to a man saying, “Take her out back and finish her off.” Worst of all, she has total amnesia. To her shock, she knows how to fight—she beats up her captor and flees, and what follows is 28 hours of outfoxing a deadly unknown enemy. Cady’s accomplice is Ty, a McDonald’s cashier who risks his own skin to help her to safety. Cady’s bewildered first-person voice gives the book a tumbling, breathless feel as we scrape for clues right along with her to find out just who she is and why she was meant to die.

Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon

Suffering from "bubble baby disease," Madeline has lived for 18 years in a sealed house with her physician mother. Madeline is a bright, witty young woman who makes the best of life by playing games with her mom, studying with online tutors, and writing book reviews on Tumblr. Her life is turned upside down when new neighbors move in and she sees Olly. As Madeline gets to know Olly she considers risking everything to be with him. She confides to her understanding nurse, Carla, the truth she keeps from her overprotective mother: that it’s painfully hard to be a teen with a crush, yearning to experience the world.

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

January 1945. The war in Europe is ending as German forces are beaten back by the Allied armies. To escape the Soviet advance on the eastern front, thousands of refugees flee to the Polish coast. In a desperate flight for freedom, four young people—each with different backgrounds and dark secrets—connect as they vie for passage on the Willhelm Gustloff. Packed to almost 10x its capacity, the ship is hit by Soviet torpedoes less than 12 hours from port. As the ship sinks into the icy Baltic Sea, what was supposed to be an escape quickly becomes another fight to survive the randomness of war.

Love & Gelato by Jenna Evans Welch

Lina is spending the summer in Tuscany, but she isn’t in the mood for Italy’s famous sunshine and fairy-tale landscape. She’s only there because it was her mother’s dying wish that she get to know her father. But what kind of father isn’t around for sixteen years? Then Lina is given a journal that her mom had kept when she lived in Italy. Suddenly, Lina’s uncovering a magical world of secret romances, art, and hidden bakeries. A world that inspires Lina, along with the ever-so-charming Ren, to follow in her mother’s footsteps and unearth a secret that has been kept from Lina for far too long.

P.S. I like You by Kasie West

Music has the power to bring people together. When Lily writes a lyric of her favorite indie band on her desk, someone else responds. Lily and her mysterious friend seem to get closer and closer through their anonymous notes. What happens when she finds the true author of the notes?
Malice by Chris Wooding

Everyone has heard of it, but nobody has read it. Luke, Seth, and Kady have heard all the stories about Malice—a secret comic about a strange, awful world full of tricks and traps, all overseen by the sinister master of ceremonies named Tall Jake. But, if the rumors are to be believed, the children in this comic are real. Luke is the first to fall into this trap—and Seth and Kady are the next to follow. They have left our world and entered the sinister comic book. The question is—can they make it out alive?

Dead to You by Lisa McMann

Abducted at age seven, Ethan Manuel De Wilde grew up with a woman who loved him but couldn’t take care of him, ultimately leaving him in an orphanage. After running away and living on the streets, he finds a photo of himself while searching a website for missing children. Now 16, he returns to his loving family, but finds it difficult to reestablish relationships. Especially with his younger brother, Blake, who doesn’t believe he’s the real Ethan. McMann piercingly depicts Ethan’s mental illness as he suffers from anxiety attacks, bonds with his new little sister, and fails to understand why he has no memories of life with his real family. And there’s the ethical issue: if he isn’t who he thinks he is, what should he do?

The Living by Matt de la Pena

Shy Espinoza took the summer job to make some money. In a few months on a luxury cruise liner, he’ll rake in the tips and be able to help his mom and sister out with the bills. And how bad can it be? Bikinis, free food, maybe even a girl or two—every cruise has different passengers, after all. But everything changes when the “Big One” hits. Shy’s only weeks out at sea when an earthquake more massive than ever before recorded hits California, and his life is forever changed. And the earthquake is only the first disaster. Suddenly it’s a fight to survive for those left living.

Fake ID by Lamar Giles

Nick Pearson (not his real name) and his family are on their last lifeline. An anonymous Southern town named Stepton is their final chance to stay out of trouble and avoid being removed from the witness protection program. More specifically, it is the last chance for Nick’s father, whose dodgy dealings continue to risk exposing the family. Nick has changed identity so frequently that he has become adept at “staying low-key.” But in Stepton he befriends high-school journalist Eli Cruz, who is leading a one-man crusade to unearth the truth behind “Whispertown.” When Eli ends up dead, it throws Nick into an investigation. While each revelation brings him closer to the truth, it also brings him closer to blowing his cover.
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**Blood and Salt** by Kim Liggett

Dead bodies in a cornfield in the middle of Kansas, a mysterious ritual centuries in the making, visions of a dead girl, and the sinister plotting of an immortal Francisco Vázquez de Coronado all conspire to turn New York City teen Ash Larkin's life upside down in this complicated paranormal tale. Ash and her twin brother take off for Kansas to find their mother, who has decided to return to the cult she escaped when she was pregnant with them. Their spotty knowledge of family history and Ash's increasingly disturbing visions about her ancestors do not prepare the siblings for the people in the insular community of Quivira, who have clearly been waiting for them. Thrown into the center of a ritual she does not understand, Ash must sort through violent visions of 16th century love, loss, and betrayal in order to find her mother and keep her brother safe.

**Lady Midnight** by Cassandra Clare

It has been five years since the events of City of Heavenly Fire that brought the Shadow hunters to the brink of oblivion. Emma Carstairs is no long a child in mourning, but a young woman who just wants to prove that her parents weren’t killed by Sebastian in the Dark War. Together with her parabatai Julian Blackthorn, Emma must learn to trust her head and her heart as she investigates a demonic plot that stretches across Los Angeles, from the Sunset Strip to the enchanted sea that pounds the beaches of Santa Monica. If only her heart didn’t lead her in treacherous directions...

For lovers of the *The Mortal Instruments* series – this is for you!